



The Rocket
1921-2000

The Maclean's
**HEALTH
REPORT**

THE BEST HEALTH CARE



THE WINNERS

- North/West Vancouver
- Mississauga
- Victoria
- Edmonton
- Moncton
- Lethbridge





Measuring the quality of health care

In 1998, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien observed that the way *Maclean's* does the annual ranking of universities is "exactly what we would like to do with medicine." In the current issue, with strong support from an independent not-for-profit agency and our own researchers, *Maclean's* moves much closer to a comprehensive ranking of health care in Canada. For the first time, data supplied by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada have been used to evaluate the availability of care and treatments in 30 health regions, covering 85 per cent of the Canadian people. We believe it is an important step along the road to greater accountability in a system that annually costs Canadians \$86 billion.

In a nutshell, the more affluent and better-educated regions enjoy the best health services. This means that suburbs of Vancouver and Toronto rank highly, as do cities such as Victoria, Edmonton and Ottawa. But there is also a rewarding lesson for more resource-limited regions: taking better care of your health and having better local administrators can make a difference.

A good example is the sprawling Crowsfoot Health Region in southwestern Alberta, centred on Lethbridge, but stretching from the Rockies to Leth. It used to have placed with Medicine, N. B., in the category ranking health regions with a largely rural population (and had ranked 17th overall in the country). In addition to strengthening 14 diverse health boards in the Crowsfoot district, there has been a special push for long-term care, to reduce pressure on acute-care facilities.

Even administrators who face poorly in the rankings understand why. Jardine Mon, president of the Sudbury Regional Hospital, whose sprawling region placed 49th out of 50, notes that many patients there are in poor health even before they have to seek help. "We know for a fact that in the North the population generally speaks in more ill."

Overseeing the second annual ranking was *Maclean's* Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, who worked closely with CIIH's director of analysis, Jennifer Zelmer, and economist David Andrews at the University of Toronto. Michael Chen was principal researcher on the cover package, designed by Art Director Nick Barnes and Assistant Art Director Eric Legge.

Robert Lewis

rlewis@maclean's.ca to comment
on this Editor



Robert Lewis with wife Alison
and daughters Diana, Brandy (at left),
and gold, Marshall (right).



Newsroom Notes

Special honour

It was a night to celebrate magazines—and it was a good night for *Maclean's*. The National Magazine Awards Foundation bestowed its Chancery Award on Peter C. Newman, the founding editor of *Maclean's* as a newspaper.

In a million words or more for the magazine, and in his 20 books, Newman has taken government and the Canadian business establishment. He fought fiercely to preserve a special place for Canadian magazines. Had he not assumed the editorship of the magazine in 1971? "I paid him half for 11 years and converted it to a weekly in 1978, *Maclean's* probably would not have survived. And as a refugee from the bosom of *Hockey*, he brought the passion of a country to his new country, holding it up to close scrutiny when it needed, providing comfort in times of national strife. And he continues to write superbly."

In all, the foundation awarded gold and silver medals in 31 categories. *Maclean's* staff members who received honourable mentions: Assistant Managing Editor Ann Dawson Johnson and staff for the annual university ranking (two categories), Managing Editor Geoffrey Simcock and contributor for a July 1 historical special; Senior Writer Jane O'Han for an investigative piece on arose Bill Reid and Sports Editor James Deacon for a profile of Wayne Gretzky. *Sensibility* Night capped the field with seven gold winners, and *Chancery*, our sister publication, was named magazine of the year.

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excite.ca
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The Mail

Royally indifferent

I can only imagine the wrenching pain that Prince William and his family endured with his mother's death ("Coming of age," Cover, May 22). Thus said, don't expect me to care about his every hormonal twinge just because of who he is.

Bruce Shand, New Westminster, B.C.



Prince William: Royally indifferent

I hope that Prince William's "Independent streak" will mean that he won't expect to have his cake and eat it, too. Young royals fail to realize that there is a price to be paid for their privileged lives. Too bad Queen Elizabeth II's children brought the grand House of Windsor down.

Dina Tisserantessan, Toronto

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcome.
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Mail: Letters to the editor are welcome, but letters may be edited for space. Ideas and clearly written copy welcome. Address and telephone info please. Letters: Address correspondence to: Michael J. Wigdor, a electronic mail. Please quote your source and identify yourself. Letters should be directed to: Michael J. Wigdor@canadianliving.com

Grease has been a popular name since 1973, by choice of the Greek people. There is no such person as Prince Pavlos of Greece ("The last king of Europe"), and this family should not be mentioned as "royals."

Monica Kokkai, Vancouver

Once upon a time, I used to read and enjoy some of Alison Forrester's articles. But in recent years, I have found more of her writing to be trite and of little value. A case in point is the column in the May 22 issue titled "Sukhing the Queen Mother." This was not a salute but a boorish attempt to be funny. Examples of her brilliant powers of description are "gusty Fergie," "distracted grandchild," "suckers," "Duchess of York," "undiscerning Canadian Alliance," etc. I am not a great fan of the Royal Family, but as I see it, by comparison, the Queen continues to stand on a pedestal while Forrester HUM stands in the gutter.

G. F. Kene, Kamloops, B.C.

Monopoly in the air

As a passenger who has flown more than a million miles in my lifetime, the mystery of it with Canadian Airlines and its various incarnations, I avoided Air Canada whenever possible ("Unfriendly skies," Business, May 22). Why? The service and passenger concern shown by Canadian was always outstanding. As Canada continually demonstrated nothing but contempt for passengers. Now we have the same old story, from the passenger's point of view, taking over the superior air. Is something wrong with the patient? Air Canada CEO Robert McMillan certainly does not help. He could give a stronger lesson to our Prime Minister.

F. G. Cooper, Victoria

'A good view'

Last year, I was diagnosed with leukemia, and I should know that the less capable couldn't handle it. When I found out I needed a bone-marrow transplant, I was scared. I was only 10 years old and I knew I might die. The names were more than people who gave me medicine; they were friends. I'm all right now. I've gone through the transplant and I'm off my infusion drugs. I have a good view of things because when I'm done writing this letter, I will take my IV, go down the elevator to my floor, probably walk by at least one name and go to my room. I think Barbara Amiel is commenting on what she does not know enough about and jumping to conclusions before she knows the whole story ("Why we need private insurance," April 17).

Arby Gassick, Dartmouth, N.B.

As a Canadian Airlines employee, I find the recent flurry of negative articles about Canada's airline industry most irritating. Charter companies have always crammed passengers into sheer seats and operated older, less-reliable equipment. This is how they can afford the dirt-cheap prices that Canadian seems to crave. What does the public expect? The government refused to prop up Canadian Airlines before; a monopoly. Logically, Air Canada has to reduce domestic capacity in order to smile a profit. We expect what we see.

Nick Berenski, Burlington, Ont.

Part-time help

I was relieved when Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that Canadian troops would be going to Sierra Leone only in a small logistic capacity ("Geno and death," World, May 22). For many years, our government has followed a contrite-first, find-easy-exterminist policy regarding UN peacekeeping. Our regular-force soldiers have been marched extremely thin and we have only been able to honour our UN commitments by using large numbers of reservists. No other developed nation

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with Shana Datzel

'Ma'am, your Herb Strever is here'

Prince Charles recently spiced a 500-year-old tradition by appointing 20-year-old Carrin Finch Harper to the Prince of Wales' Benefice include a salary of \$5,600 and a gold brooch. That has caused a stir in some of Great Britain's other ancient titles. Here are some other unusual positions from *Keepers of the Kingdom* by Alastair Bruce (McArthur & Co., \$60).

- **Queen's Remembrancer:** Before campagnes and Palm processional organs, King Henry created the office in 1354 to put the Lord Treasurer and the Baron of the Coom of the Exchequer in remembrance of such things as were to be called upon and dealt with for the benefit of the Crown. Tack past, the Queen's Remembrancer collects two knives, six horseshoes and 61 nails for two properties leased to the Gey of London; one in 1211 and the other in 1235. The remembrancer has a "day job" that is more onerous—he's a judge.
- **Queen's Champion:** Lord of the Manor of Scriviby! The title and lands were given to Robert Marmion by William the Conqueror just after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. One

arm of ownership is that at every coronation, the title holder does combat with any challenger for the throne. Marmion's descendants have never been called on to fight instead of riding in armour at coronations, they carry the banner of England.

- **Herb Strever:** The first title holder was Bridget Rassay, paid \$35 per year in 1660 to pluck mint, lavender and other fragrant herbs wherever the monarch travelled on an affair, before the age of paper sanitizers, to dispense unpleasant odors. The title fell into abeyance after Anne Fellows carried out her duties at the 1625 coronation of George IV, but the Fellows family still claims the position in the name of the senior unmarried daughter of the family.

Her Majesty's Remembrancer, also a judge

Patricia Trebil

Overbites

"Good salads are symbolic of our overall attention to detail."

—Queen's University business school dean Margaret Norrby reads to news her university offers heat-on-computers meals of any international business school

"Viagra is not an aphrodisiac and has no effect on the libido. It should only be used by people with erectile dysfunction."

—Don Sutan, spokesman for Pfizer Canada, which manufactures Viagra, warns against youth mixing it with illicit drugs

"Women's sexual difficulties are rather different from men's, even though that's not been all that clear in the literature to date."

—Vancouver researcher Dr. Rosemary Basson explains why Viagra doesn't work as well for women as for men



Over and Under Achievers

Songs in the key of strife

Special music theme
ABBA again?
Who's Tory Now?
Day-dream Believer?

- **Toronto, Canadian Alliance** Too busy bickering over use of word "conservative" to go after real money—the Libs. Most proof of your mother's wisdom: two wrongs don't make a right

- **Stadowell Day:** It is told by owners of song *I Can See Clearly Now*—with tag line "bright, sunny day"—to stop using it as campaign

�reme. Good news!
Day-Zipper or Year-Day
will still available

- **Polyphony** '70s revised now complete as musical band on ABBA open in TO to SRO. Next: CBC air zero footage of Peter Mansbridge with hair!

- **Toronto Study** shows day/e morning off TV in favour of Web-surfing. Coach position of world, like back the night?

- **Gordon Giffen** American ambassador to Ottawa suggests new destination for Jean Chretien and Team Canada business lineup: the U.S. South. Because Florida really sand rates visiting Canadians



Overview

The all-new Cpl. 'ZZ Top'

The Royal Canadian Regiment of the Canadian Forces has always been a bit unlike other military units: for starters, members are allowed to sport berets. But when a photo of Cpl. Brandon Massay of the Assault Platoon of the 1st Battalion, on peacekeeping duty in Mitrovica, Kosovo, ran in many newspapers last February, he looked a bit too much like a member of the rock group ZZ Top for the liking of his superiors. As a result, they said he could keep the beret—but only if he cut the prescribed length of one inch. Said Lt.-Col. Rejean Duchesne, a military spokesperson: "We weren't picking on the RCR." But rules are rules, even for a pace-setting battle unit.

Deeck Cheek

Gender Bender 101

Life in an 'Ovary Tower'

They call it the "Ovary Tower" at YorkU's York University: five of eight senior positions are held by women, including the president, provost, and three vice-president posts. That is in stark contrast to the relatively unbroken regimen of male Canadian universities: "It's a bit of a historical accident, having this

Overhead

Expos: steal home?

While the Montreal Expos enjoy an impressive season in field, there are questions—again—whether they will stay in the city. In a meeting to take place this week, the team's partnership committee, led by New York City-based Jeffrey Loria, was first supposed to discuss groundbreaking dates for a new stadium. But such plans will likely be postponed, and speculation is rife that Loria, who has traded with partners almost from the day he bought into the Expos last December, wants to buyout shareholders and move the team. Attendance is near bottom among major-



Massay then
righted and
now looks

Brand Watch

It was only a matter of time before young musicians uncoveted the Golden Age—and Agents—of Canadian music. After years of "sampling" (recycling) grooves from the likes of Stevie Wonder and Otis Redding, pop and rap artists are now turning to Canada to find the Guess Who and Gordon Lightfoot for material. Some examples:

- In 1998, Stars on 54 sped up Lightfoot's 1970 classic "If You Could Read My Mind" for the 54 sound track, and created one of the decade's early disco hits.
- In 1998, Toronto rapper Maestro Fresh Wes staged a comeback by shortening his name to Maestro and having the chorus with Stick to Your Roots, a rap cover of the Guess Who's 1968 song "These Eyes."
- Last month, North Carolina rapper Elwood released his first single, "Sassou," using the chorus from Lightfoot's 1974 hit of the same name. Elwood, recognizing the generational limitations of his fan base, acknowledged: "Most people who hear it don't even know it's a cover."

any woman at the top," says president Liane Mandel, insisting: "We picked the best people." Marleen, executive president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, says York reflects the concept of equality upon which NAC was built, and she jokingly adds an added benefit: "We don't have to discuss sports all the time."

Stevie Deek

legate names, and Loria recently told, sarcastically, that he finds it leaves more fans since there are so few of them. Games are available only on French-language radio or the Internet, the media are suspicious of Loria's motives, and partners have not completed a \$150-million recapitalization plan.

A among signs of discord, minority partner Jon Costa refused to have his picture taken with other partners, including Loria, on opening day, and Loria passed on a blonde-tie hand-raiser honouring Jacques Mérand and Stephen Bronfman, co-chairs of the partners' committee. (One card family members for his absence.) Mérand, who brought Loria in as a late-season saviour, is keeping quiet publicly, but has told friends he is among those fed up with Loria's behaviour.

The ultimate grilling accessory.

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Overture

PASSAGES

Died: Sir John Gielgud, 96, was world acclaimed as an actor and perhaps most of all for his voice in his 75-year acting career; it was compared to almost every musical instrument. Along with Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir Ralph Richardson, Gielgud brought many of the greatest Shakespeare performances to the British stage. He emigrated to Hollywood later than his contemporaries and ended up with a sensationally eclectic film résumé. He played King Louis VII in *Brooke*, won an Academy Award for his role as the butler, Molaison, in *Deadline Moon's Asthma* and played a naked Prospero, Peter Greenaway's *The Tempest* remake, *Prospero's Book*. The openly gay Gielgud didn't receive his knighthood until 1953, after Oliver lobbied for him. He died at his country home west of London.

Died: Dame Barbara Cartland, 98, wrote 725 romance novels and was nicknamed by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's top-selling author. She was known for her ingrown style—to

the end, she sported pink frocks, jewels, white fur-hat, heavy makeup, and rode in a white Rolls-Royce. Cartland's success as a Cinderella-type heroine and many men were depicted to securities from her sales, and often complained in two weeks. Her daughter Diana married the 8th Earl Spencer, father of Diana, Princess of Wales, making Cartland Diana's step-grandmother. She died in London after a short illness.

Died: Former Prime Minister Conservative cabinet minister E. Davie Fulton, 84, was a Rhodes Scholar whose Oxford accent, good looks and sharp intellect made him a standout in Ottawa. He was elected to the House of Commons seven times for the Kamloops, B.C., riding. He co-chaired the 1961 Fulton-Hansen Commission, which recommended that major changes to the Constitution would require unanimous consent of the provinces—that satisfying a lay demand of Quebec, among others. Fulton served under Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and for he had no future in Ottawa after he was again Diefenbaker for the Tory leadership in 1956. "Dief thought I was a disgrace," Fulton recalled in 1989. After politics, he practiced law in Vancouver and

took a seat on the provincial Supreme Court. Fulton, who acknowledged an alcohol-abuse problem, stepped down after a second drinking and driving conviction in 1981 for which he spent 14 days in jail. He died in a Vancouver hospital shortly after doctors discovered a lung clot and internal bleeding.

Donated: Retired McMaster University chemistry professor Richard Tomlinson, 76, gave \$64 million to his alma mater, McGill University—the largest individual gift ever to a Canadian university. Tomlinson made most of his money investing in ranunculus maker German Corp.; he said the grant is a "substantial fraction" of his worth.

Awar ded: James Shupria, a researcher at the University of Alberta, was given the Royal College of Surgeons Hazardous Professor award. His development of a cell-transplant procedure may ultimately free diabetes sufferers from daily insulin injections.

Died: Former Queen's University principal David Smith, 68, established an international reputation for Queen's department of economics before his appointment as principal in 1984. He was a strong policy-maker who introduced the women's studies program. He died of cancer.

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WHO WILL SAY
"I AM"
THE NEXT CANADA?

Over to You
David Coffey



No June wedding for me

On the roof of a Brooklyn loft, with the Manhattan skyline blaring in the background, my good friend Diana wed her dreamy companion, Anne, over declarations of "love" and "forever." Although their wedding will not be officially recognized, these two women did it anyway. I've known Diana for quite a few years—she's the measure, lad you'll ever meet. No one I know seemed more devoted to marriage—certainly not me.

Since her wedding last March, I began to wonder: "Am I the marrying kind?" I've never considered proposing to anyone and no one has ever come close to declaring me to the Altar-of-Always. I'm all for romance (with the right guy), but even at age 30, I just don't feel that sense of urgency to part off like so many of my contemporaries.

Whether you're destined like Diana or unloved like myself, it's abundantly clear that marriage isn't what it used to be. Over the last hundred years, the issues of why one individual decides to marry and who is allowed to do so have changed considerably. In parts of the United States, interracial marriage was a crime. To give a license to an interracial couple was punishable by imprisonment in 16 states until a 1967 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Currently, gays and lesbians—who have already been granted common-law benefits in some provinces—are fighting to get same-sex marriage legalized in Canada and other Western nations.

I share their fervour even though I presently have very little invested in such advancements. The problem lies in our relationship with the straight powers that be. At times, I wonder if we should bother trying to wangle ourselves into letting our armed forcesies use their institutions. Though gays and lesbians become easier and more popular in the public eye each year, we're still stuck between a long-

lasting trend and a half-acknowledged entity lurking around the edges of popular opinion.

Many opponents to same-sex marriage believe gays and lesbians will ruin their marrying practice, which they regard as an exclusive union between a man and a woman in the eyes of their God and/or government. They fear a change in current laws will cause the whole thing to come undone, leaving them in a coupole of singles, queers and divorcees, as I and other members of the gay and lesbian legions pack into gay bars and churches in a rush to part off.

The truth is, most queers don't want to get married. Many haven't come out publicly until their 20s (with the exception of a few brave souls). I considered myself an early bird when I came out at 20. Because of that, our social adolescence often begins about 10 years later than our straight friends. While straight people plan marriages, many of us are still learning the landscape of sex and dating. Since the gay and lesbian culture I know places strong emphasis on friendships, there is less focus on being alone. And while some gay men and lesbians have children or would like to, I don't believe we feel the desire to start a family as much as our straight pals.

Though I cheer on same-sex marriage and think myself a good catch, thoughts of officially embracing married life are far back on my priority list. For once to learn the language of "married" couples—gay or straight—the deep talk about renovations, compromises over housecleaning, the sharing... it's a fundamental civil right I should be free to reject.

Some of David Coffey's best friends are married. Gays' submissions may be sent to: www.thesubmission.ca or faxed to (416) 596-7730. We cannot respond to all questions.

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Editorial Update

Preparing for the "University Crunch"

Consider these facts:

- Between 2000 and 2010, enrollment in Canadian universities will skyrocket, as the children of the baby boomers — the echo generation — turn their sights towards a postsecondary education.
- Over the same time period, more than 20,000 of the country's 83,000 faculty will have retired or departed, forcing schools to go on a shopping spree for more than 30,000 new professors and kicking off what promises to be a brutal competition for faculty talent.

In June, Maclean's gives students and parents the information they need to prepare for the university crunch — the intense competition that will soon exist for a limited number of spots at Canada's postsecondary schools. As universities chase the best and the brightest, many students will find themselves left out in the cold for a scholastic home.

This exclusive report, prepared by the magazine's award-winning education columnist Anne Devineff Johnson, examines the challenges students will face in securing a spot at university, as well as mounting concerns about accessibility and the quality of higher education.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

When Moses speaks, listen

A while ago, Moses Znaimer—multimedia visionary, CEO and executive producer of Citytv, Bravo!, MuchMusic, and a bunch of other TV networks—was asked to speak to an international conference of media educators in Toronto. The audience, Moses knew, contained skeptics who either regarded television as a necessary evil, or simply as evil, period. So Moses did what Moses does when confronted with critics: he put the wind up them. He upped his speech on video, underlining the commitment to show close up “to my head, will be about 30 feet off the floor,” on a game screen. Then, he sat amidst the crowd, and watched himself. In the ensuing question period, an indignant educator berated him for having the “audacity” to deliver his speech via video, rather than in person. Moses, in his carefully modulated speaking manner, told the man that if he was a media educator in a media conference who couldn’t understand why someone would use the media as a tool to educate the audience, there was nothing more to say. Weeks later, Moses was still berating. “Talking about TV is beside the point you have to use it,” he says. “Especially when you’re talking to a screen.”

Anyone who knows Moses even slightly knows he has almost breathtaking self-confidence. Seven people acknowledge he has a right to be so pleased with himself. Before the Peace Monitor capped Bob屯ckhouse as CBC president, industry types were apprehensive, but not so he makes not much of it and has too much fun where he is. Moses will always be known for changing the look of TV by breaking down walls between performers and viewers. While travelling in Europe in the early '70s, he observed, dismally, that “television in Germany and Italy looked exactly alike.” His solution: eliminate national studios. There is no Much or City and you see TV presented like life and, with all its delights, imperfections and spontaneity. Juggling, hand-held cameras, short technical cuts, shuffling around, spectators interacting with hosts, hosts being an informed extension not much different from their guests. Long-distance employment equity laws, Moses learned from visible minorities who started out in a cardbunch culture they can’t figure out—like a test-life *Third Rail* from the Sea. But overall, the free-spirited style is wildly successful. One rea-

son that Moses’ audiences have been appalled by stations worldwide. As well, the ChatCity International division has learned seasons and taught techniques everywhere from Argentina to Poland. But Toronto-area CP24 news seems to have also taken up to grace. The station’s make-tense news often affords surprises and repeats, the sun, weather, market updates and summaries of breaking news. The former was designed to resemble a computer screen—and it’s up to people who have it on with the sound muted still find it useful.

Now, in his late 50s or so, Moses (who doesn’t give his age and is only ever referred to by first name) is as revised up as ever—though one friend says he actually appears more “senior” than he once was. In early June, he plays co-chair to the first Canadian version of TEDx, a high-end gathering of Big Thinkers who discuss virtually everything except that which they’re best known for. The side armistice for Technologies, Entertainment, Design, grants an American TEDx have included Bill Gates, Herb Krasow, Dr. Jonas Salk—and Moses. A typical session might see a retired scientist who also is an amateur photographer brandishing pictures taken in zero space, or a paediatrician tech-head displaying his collection of Guerrilla Bikes. The idea, Moses says, is that the “casual and slightly oblique nature of *curiosity*” encourages everyone to stretch themselves intellectually. The all-Canadian version he co-chairs in Toronto with Richard Saul Wurman, TED’s founder, will feature guests ranging from Frank Gehry to Anton Egoyan to John Turner.

Lately, Moses has been working on applications for new nations, including a bid for a City-style station in Vancouver. He’s also been thinking about Toronto bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games. He has been, he says, “crawling up looking dates, so Toronto could serve as to write the city’s Olympic constitution, as *Role, Site and Organigram of a Live, Switched Universal Television event* shared with a handful of other cities worldwide.” Meanwhile, he’s mystified on the Web. While many TV people live in silos, Moses views “the future of the Web” as “TV people will find the *Net is the set*.” He means that the technologies are growing to close they’ll eventually merge—and when they do, hell be ready. The new *Pure-N* can use a rear mirror of the CP24 channel; eventually will use various subsections of the screen as “buttons” that lead them to raise live images and information on subjects worldwide. The technology doesn’t yet exist for all this, but when that day comes, Moses will be thinking about the day after that—and the Next Big Thing. There will be no waiting down gravity—like a test-life *Third Rail* from the Sea. But overall, the free-spirited style is wildly successful. One rea-

THE BEST HEALTH CARE

The second annual *Maclean's* ranking finds the best health services in prosperous suburbs

By Robert Marshall

What a difference a year makes. Last June, *Maclean's* broke new ground with the first-ever ranking of health services available to Canadians in major centres across the land. That became possible when the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the magazine's main partner in its periodic health report, made a leap of its own. In a pilot project, the national health information agency broke our data on 16 urban centres from 16 national sources. That allowed those regions, home to almost 40 per cent of Canadians, to compare their performance in 13 specific areas with other regions' for the first time. For *Maclean's*, it was the raw data required to launch the ranking project. Bragging rights went to Edmonton, with an overall score of 89 per cent. The other 15 regions followed remarkably close behind, all within 10 percentage

points, down to the very difficult-to-service Sudbury region of Northern Ontario, trailing at 79 per cent.

Fast-forward to the present. Because that pilot project produced useful, comparable numbers, CIHI has extracted data for all 115 provincial and territorial health regions—fodder for a much more inclusive ranking. Scanning on page 22, *Maclean's* ranks the health services available to residents of 50 of those regions with populations over 100,000, representing fully 85 per cent of Canada. With so many regions involved, this second ranking separates them into three sections: 1, communities with medical schools; 2, other major communities; 3, largely rural communities.

The results Edmonton's neighbours—in section 1, where results are generally higher than in section 2, which in turn score better overall than the rural section 3. But it is an outstanding exception to that trend: regions from section 2 finished first, second and third overall, with scores even higher than Edmonton's. The top spots go to two suburbs: additions to the ranking's North Shore region (embracing North and West Vancouver) followed closely by the similarly affluent Mississauga/Brampton/Burlington cluster, neigbouring Toronto. Victoria, ranked seventh last year, jumps to a strong third among the 50.

In the largely rural section 3, Moncton, N.B., and Leth-

bridge, Alta., tie for first place. Their scores, in fact, would place them proudly in the top third of section 2, they even outscore four communities in the medical schools section. On the other hand, seven of the rural section 3 regions produce the lowest marks among the 50. Overall, the rankings provide graphic documentation that, despite legislation guarantees of equal access to health care, the rural, northern regions are simply not equipped to offer health services on a par with those in the cities and big suburbs. For those rural Canadians, there is some reassuring news: Once again, the overall spread is tight, with just 15.6 percentage points separating first place from 50th, the region around Peace George, B.C.

The more comprehensive ranking stems from the success of CIHI's pilot project last year. The 16 participating centres found their regional data so useful for comparative purposes that they asked for more. As word of the regional project spread, managers from the 97 other health regions showed their interest. Says Jennifer Zulman, CIHI director of health reports and analysis: "People outside the 16 regions called up and asked, 'Can we have our data, too,

please?'" As a result, CIHI produced the entire set this year.

The rankings, unfortunately, can not include the less populous regions, including all those spread across the territories. Their small numbers tend to vary widely and erratically from year to year. As well, extremely small numbers for some procedures cause a significant risk that individual patients could be identified. Consequently, CIHI only publishes the numbers for regions with populations over 100,000. "We're very strong on protecting the privacy and confidentiality of both individuals and service providers," says Zulman.

Quantity is not the only factor to improve over the past year. With CIHI and Statistics Canada expanding their knowledge, the core of relevant information is constantly growing. This year, the rankings include two important new indicators of effective services: life expectancy and the rate of babies born with low birth weight in each region (page 21). As well, four of the original indicators now reach high scores only up to a level where higher numbers do not necessarily represent better service. Those indicators are hip and knee replacements (high marks could indicate a failure of preventive measures) and numbers of physicians and specialists (a failure in the largest centres by the need to move high-priority cases from smaller hospitals).

For the first regions clustered at the bottom of the rank-



ing, the numbers confirm the frustrations of their daily struggle. There are complex factors at play, says Joe de Mora, president of the Sudbury Regional Hospital, whose region ranked last of 15 for year and 40th out of 50 this year. Northern, rural regions face a double disadvantage, he notes. Not only are their facilities and staff levels not up to national standards, but their patients tend to be sicker. As generally lower socio-economic status—based on education, employment and income—correlates to lower levels of health, "And because of the disease involved," adds de Mora, "these people are less likely to go for care until it's too late."

De Mora, like other rural region administrators, sees no sign of significant funding to improve prevention and health promotion on a community or up-gradation basis. "It's not in the interest of the public that it's well served—the urban population—to provide what they think is a substitution for areas that are well served," he observes. "But for people in rural northern areas, it's a matter of equity. Accessibility to service is a basic tenet of the Canada Health Act. There shouldn't be these kinds of discrepancies in distribution."

The main challenge in producing the ranking is to make the best use of available data. If a fully developed information system could provide 100 per cent of needed data, "we're in the 50-per-cent range," says CIHI's Toronto-based chairman, Michael Dester, a non-clinical consultant. "We know

about as much as we don't know." Dester shares the frustration of the public at large—that much of the most clearly illuminating information is still unavailable on a nationally comparable basis: wait in emergency; the time it takes to see a specialist; the survival rate after cancer or heart attack stroke. "I think the questions at the top of the public's mind," says Dester, "have to do with speed, quality and appropriateness of service delivered."

Results from the efforts under way to fill in those blanks will be incorporated into future rankings. Meanwhile, the power rests on a solid set of numbers covering a wide range of indicators. David Andrews, a University of Toronto statistician with a keen interest in public-health policy, believes the measurements are comprehensive enough that any new factors are unlikely to make a significant difference. "I wouldn't expect huge changes in communities moving from very disadvantaged to very advantaged," says Andrews. *Maclean's* consultant on compiling the raw data into a representative



A patient undergoing a CAT scan in Laker City Hospital, just 13.6 percentage points separate top-ranking North Shore from rural Prince George, B.C., the region in last place.

How the second ranking was done

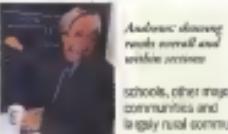
Maclean's produces its annual ranking of the health care available in communities across Canada from information gathered nationally by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada. Where necessary, these agencies consolidate the data to remove discrepancies among age differences in the population of the country's 113 provincial and territorial health regions.

Using the 13 best, nationally recognized indicators, *Maclean's* has ranked 50 communities with populations over 100,000, representing 85 per cent of the national

population. The rankings do not include less populated regions because their small numbers are subject to large variations from year to year. This year's numbers, the latest available, are from the fiscal years 1997-1998 or 1998-1999. Life expectancy figures are from 1998.

Maclean's project consultant, University of Toronto statistician David Andrews, converted raw data into percentage grades for each indicator in each region. Grouping those grades into five categories with assigned weights produced the final scores. The category weights: outcomes, 2; prevent care, 2; community health, 2; mainly elderly services, 2; efficiencies, 1; resources, 1.

The charts on the following pages rank the 50 regions in three groups with basic similarities—communities with medical



Academic doctor viewing results overall and within regions

schools, other major communities and largely rural communities. But because the same methodology applies to all three groups, the charts also provide each region's overall ranking within the group of 50. As data for two of the three efficiency indicators were not available from Quebec regions, their efficiency score is based on just one indicator. Life expectancy results for most Ontario regions and two in British Columbia were calculated from data gathered in health units representing these regions.

Judgments based on a growing store of health data

The annual Maclean's ranking of health care available in Canadian communities uses the best available data collected on a comparable basis in all health regions by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada. The 13 indicators this year

• Life expectancy

The age to which a person would be expected to live, based on mortality rates in 1996. Higher scores go to greater life expectancy.

• Low birth weight

The proportion of babies weighing less than 2,500 g (five pounds, eight ounces) at birth, a measure of prenatal care as well as community education and health-awareness programs. The higher the rate, the lower the score.

• Cesarean sections

The percentage of women who deliver babies by c-section. Health authorities attribute above-standard rates in most regions to some c-sections being done unnecessarily. The best score goes to the lowest rates.

• Births after c-section

Vaginal births in hospital by women who previously delivered a baby by

ranking. "New indicators will simply make the ranking more credible and more meaningful."

Other adjustments to the ranking present this year reflect advice from the health-care community on the relative importance of the indicators. "The expanded addition of many more indicators over the coming decade is going to be a major task for management of the health system," notes Andrews. "But it will have only a moderate impact on the ranking."

CIHI and Statistics Canada drew this year's numbers from the latest available data, collected between 1996 and 1999 when the federal and provincial governments generally maintained their stronghold on health-care spending. Now, with dollars starting to flow back into the system, administrators have to avoid the splurges of the '90s that preceded the painful retrenching of the '00s. The people spending the money say De Mora should know what an extra imaging machine, or five more physician, or 50 more nurses, will do for the public. "That's one of our challenges—to get this information," he says.

Meanwhile, as Ottawa and the provinces lead our countries for siphoning federal dollars to the health system, the strains are apparent. In Alberta, 10,000 surplus nurses

c-section. The higher the number, the lower the score.

• Hip fractures

• Pneumonia and the flu

Hospitalizations of people over 64 for hip fractures, pneumonia or influenza, as a measure of community preventive-care and health-awareness programs. Higher rates mean lower scores.

• Hip replacements

Total hip-replacement surgeries. The higher the rate, the higher the score—shorn of the highest levels. Because very high numbers may suggest a failure of preventive efforts, ranking scores do not increase for any result above 80 per cent of the average rate.

• Knee replacements

Total knee-replacement surgeries per 100,000 population, as a measure of available services. The higher the rate, the higher the mark, but scores do not increase for rates above the national average.

• Preventable admissions

Total hospital admissions per 100,000 people for conditions (such as diabetes or asthma) that could be avoided by appropriate care in dental offices or clinics. Higher rates produce lower marks.

• Physicians

• Specialists

Acute GPs and family practitioners or medical specialists per 100,000 people. Scores increase with higher ratios, peaking at 80 per cent of the average for communities over 100,000 population.



Yellow: a pilot project spread across the nation

Communities with Medical Schools

'A great group rising to the challenge'

The Edmonton health region provides residents with the best services in its select category

EDMONTON: Teamwork in action

In response to a mrsa meningitis outbreak early this year, Edmonton Capital Health Authority launched a massive immunization campaign. With medical and administrative staff from across the region pressed into service, 875,000 children and teenagers received vaccinations over a two-week period. In February last week, Sheila Weatherill, chief executive officer of the Edmonton authority, said the immunization drive set an example of the teamwork that has put her region in the top ranking of the Maclean's health-dealers' rankings for the second straight year. "It was a case of a great group of people once again rising to the challenge," says Weatherill. "It just was amazing to be part of such an effort."

Last year, Edmonton came out on top of the 36 major centres included in the integrated Maclean's ranking. In this year's more inclusive review of 50 regions, Edmonton leads the list of communities with a medical school—a category that puts Weatherill's region up against the centres she regards as benchmarks of success. "To be ranked first among centres with such prestigious organisations as Tzu Chi's University Health Network and the Lawson Health Sciences Centre," she says, "fills me with an enormous sense of pride." Edmonton's success is qualified only by the fact that it ranks slightly behind the top three centres in the new category, "other major universities."

The Capital Health Authority was created five years ago as part of an Alberta-wide move to merge some 250 hospital and health-care boards into 17 regional and two provincial authorities. The Edmonton-based board oversees seven major hospitals in the city



General surgeon Michael Muir checks on patient Neil Greene at the new University of Alberta Hospital, a chronic shortage of hospital beds even as demands are increasing

and surrounding areas, as well as almost every other aspect of health services in the region. The authority also acts as the major referral centre for 100,000 northern communities in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan as well as the Northwest Territories. On any given day, about 30 per cent of its patients have travelled into the region for treatment. Their visiting patterns don't affect the ranking, which considers services available to the regions' residents, but they are evidence of a high level of expertise, which would clearly benefit locals as well as outsiders.

Among other strengths, the Capital Health Authority ranks well in preventable hospital admissions, keeping those numbers low by training people on an outpatient basis whenever possible. At the height of this year's flu season,

the region dispatched home-care nurses to emergency rooms to help people avoid admittance to hospital. Another successful initiative sees nearly 300 elderly and frail residents bussed regularly from their homes to their closest facilities where physicians, nurses and therapists attend to their needs. That program has halved the amount of time it takes to spend in hospital patients.

The Capital Health Authority falls badly in one ranking category, however: the number of births of low-weight babies. That, Weatherill says, may be due to the relatively high proportion of poor people in the region, which extends the northern average. At the same time, Edmonton boasts a state-of-the-art neonatal unit, allowing physicians to deal with high-risk obstetrics cases. Among other things, the unit features digital radiography in every bedside, providing instant X-rays of the torso and fetal passes.

Elsewhere, jurisdictions across Canada, the Maclean's report notes, struggle with a chronic shortage of hospital beds. The authority's own projections call for almost 500 new acute-care beds to be phased in over the next decade. The Alberta government, which chronically cuts health-care funding in the 1990s and forced the closure of hundreds of beds, is now pouring money back into the system. But one of the biggest remaining blocks to opening new beds, says Weatherill, is a nationwide shortage of nurses and physicians. "I really have a fear of a shortage things I should be worrying about each day," she adds. "Alberta always is at the top of that list is how we can recruit and retain staff."

While the challenges are sometimes daunting, Weatherill believes that she and her colleagues are on the right track. "The health care restructuring was very difficult in this province," she says. "But the government made the right decision in creating integrated agencies." With hospitals and a wide range of community services—including everything from wait-orientation to restoration health-care operations—consolidated under one authority, the adds, managers are able to move personnel and resources quickly as circumstances warrant. "Because of the huge diversity of services," says Weatherill, "I can't imagine having a better job than this." As the Maclean's rankings confirm, it is one the is doing exceedingly well.

Brian Bergman

Rank by region	GENERAL			PREMIALE CARE			COMMUNITY CARE			HIGH-SCHOOL			GENERAL			HOSPITALS		
	Rank last year	Overall score	Overall ranking	Low birth weight	Low birth weight percentage	Infant mortality rate	HIV infections	Postmenopausal and by	HIV infections	Acute-care admissions	Acute-care admissions percentage	Early discharge	Prescription admissions	Physicians per capita	Physicians per capita percentage	Patients per capita	Patients per capita percentage	
1 Edmonton	1	85.2	6	38	44*	18	5	32	18	24	21 2*	34*	4	12	62			
2 Regina	10	84.9	3	8	32*	13*	24*	14	24	23	15 5*	28	12	18	68			
3 Saskatoon	3	84.7	8	12	38*	8*	5	28	18	4*	16 28*	38	22	12*	68			
4 Toronto	2	83.6	9	8	47*	32*	32*	18*	11	38	32 7	8	10	7	5			
5 Calgary	12	83.4	3	8	58	11	2	33	17	30	32 38*	23	13	26*	18			
6 London, Ont.	—	83.2	13	28*	35*	3	8*	42	8	8	1 18*	4	14	21*	6			
7 Hamilton	5	82.8	11	28*	43	23*	14*	18	15	33	12 1	18	3	21*	7			
8 Vancouver/Richmond	6	82.5	13	3*	15*	41	30*	34	15	48	41 32*	28	17*	1	1			
9 Quebec City	4	82	15*	23*	33*	6	6*	18	4	42	48 1*	—	8	2	4			
10* Winnipeg	9	82	15*	23*	38*	15*	14*	28	14	22*	19 8	32	18	22*	8			
11* Halifax/Garnetton	1	80.4	24	23*	26	10*	38	32*	14	9 54*	34*	23	8	8				
12 Sherbrooke, Que.	—	78.5	28*	39*	49	1	1	22*	22	41	48	—	28	8	13			
13 Montreal	13	78.3	29	23*	35	30*	19	6	48	48	—	—	23	9	2			
14 Kingston, Ont.	—	78.0	30*	37	43	35*	64*	28	8	15 2*	18	17*	17	18				

*Indicates a tie

Other Major Communities

The road to a healthy life

The comprehensive second ranking includes the suburbs, and finds their prosperous residents have access to the best health services

Rank by region

Rank	Region	Health care services		PREGNANCY			PREGNATAL CARE			COMMUNITY HEALTH			ELDERLY SERVED			DISEASES			RESOURCES		
		Rank	Overall ranking	Life expectancy	Low birth weight	Cesarean section	Births after c-section	Hip fractures	Pneumonia and flu	Hip replacements	Knee/hip replacements	Early deaths	Pneumococcal vaccinations	Physicians per capita	Specialists per capita	Physicians per capita	Specialists per capita	Physicians per capita	Specialists per capita		
1	North/West Vancouver	—	67.6	1	1	5*	38	49*	3*	9	7	62	51	20	1	6	37*				
2	Mississauga/Brampton/Burlington, Ont.	—	68.6	2	2	38*	36	34*	5	12	32	22	6	12*	7	44*	37*				
3	Victoria	7	68.6	3	5	3	36	34*	2	7	28	36	33*	29	34	36	34	36			
4	Kitchener/Waterloo, Ont.	—	68.6	7	11	6*	15*	14*	36	32	58	28	5	2	8	44*	32*				
5	Laval, Que.	12	68.6	12	22	39*	39*	23	8	2	39	28	—	—	2	34	33*				
6	Markham/Richmond Hill, Ont.	—	68.2	14	3*	26*	36	35*	46	25	36	29	16*	3	13	35*	37*				
7	St. Catharines/Niagara, Ont.	—	68.4	16	17	35*	33*	32*	25	10	29	36	14*	18	24	48*	36				
8	Calgary, Alta.	—	68.3	20	13*	38*	12	28*	59	3	48*	47	—	—	5	37*	24*				
9	Barrie, Ont.	—	68.1	21	7	38*	34	36*	46	32*	27*	29	26*	30	19	23*	22				
10	Brampton, Ont.	—	68.6	23	26*	13*	17	30*	35*	33	32*	53	2*	1	35	48*	46*				
11	Winnipeg, Ont.	—	78.9	25*	28*	38*	35	16*	37	16	17	5	26	6	40	35*	23				
12	Regina	11	78.7	27	23*	44*	4*	26*	29	27	28	25	28*	27	40	38	16				
13	Edmonton, Alta.	—	78.5	28	35	26*	46	37	48*	23	38	34	35*	34*	9	38*	42*				
14	Peterborough, Ont.	—	78.6	32	16	15*	39	30*	42	36	18	17	16*	2	16	47	46				
15	Gatineau/St-Hyacinthe, Que.	—	78.1	33*	58*	34*	13*	14*	24	34	43	43	—	—	24	32*	28*				
16	St. John's, Que.	—	77.3	36	49*	15*	4*	4	3*	40	56	45	—	—	28	35*	46*				
17	Chilliwack, B.C.	—	76.9	37*	44*	5*	62*	46*	29	41	33*	24	23*	9	37	37*	63*				
18	St. John's/St-Hubert, Que.	—	76.6	40	42	34*	2	14*	6	28	46	50	—	—	26	32*	44*				
19	Chinguacousy, Que.	—	76	42	48	15*	16	9	13	39	47*	31	—	—	26	16	23				
20	St. John's, Nfld.	34	75.5	43	36	44*	42	48*	3*	46	64	38	36	30	27	4	3				

*Indicates a tie



"We have affluence, high levels of education and the climate to support people who want to exercise more and eat better," says Huber.

Health and education are primary requisites for a healthy population and the North Shore is blessed with both: the average family income for the area is \$73,000. West Vancouver, which makes up one-third of the region, is one of the richest neighbourhoods in Canada, with an

average family income of \$97,000. Fifteen per cent of the region's adult population has had some postsecondary education. And, finally, in a climate where winter truly shows beneath the summer peaks, is a ubiquitous activity: cross-country and alpine skiing, bicycling, walking and jogging along miles of paths, swimming and Windsurfing at the beaches. The multitude of outdoor activities help to pull neighbours together. "There is a strong sense of community here," Huber says.

Amalgamating community health services into regional administration, initiated four years ago, has helped knit the community's once disparate services together. The combined region has one acute-care hospital, eight long-term care facilities and three community health centres. The regional board has increased its programs focusing on seniors, maternal-child-youth, mental health, community and population health, medicine and supply. In addition, the board takes guidance from six citizen groups. "We reach out to the community," says Ellen Poblets, the region's vice-president of programs. "There is not a lot of bureaucracy here and it is easy to get things done."

Huber and his staff recognise more needs need to be done in one area of the ranking: decreasing the length of hospital stays. "We're not surprised at the results," Huber says. "The North Shore region has been through some fairly turbulent times." Two years ago, the province fired all 12 members on the regional board—their relations with local doctors had reportedly broken down. With his new team, Huber is building bridges. "We're engaging the community and physicians in a way that never happened before," he says.

One reason of providing more effective service was to convert a private clinic to perform cancer operations. "It demonstrated our waiting list from five months to three," says Poblets. With 15 percent of the population over 65, there is a strong focus on support services for the elderly. The

The top regions sit right next door to two major centres of medical training

region has set up education programs for families and spouses who act as caregivers. The moderate climate and high level of physical activity definitely help in one category: the region has a low hip-fracture rate among the elderly. "You should see all the seniors walking along the seawall," says Pelletier. In addition, the region encourages its seniors and association agents to participate. Served by the highest number of doctors per capita in the country, residents have no trouble getting their shots.

In other areas of health care, the region is tracking births by caesarean section in an attempt to lower its high rate. Not only would lower numbers be better health policy, says Harber, but they would save the region a lot of money. "With every percentage drop in c-sections," he adds, "we would save \$100,000." Harber says the goal of the North Shore Region is to become the healthiest community in North America. "The Medicaid rating is a seal of approval for us," he says, "evidence that we are making progress."

Jennifer Horner

MISSISSAUGA: Regional growing pains

For Steve Isaak, success, ironically, arises from being awarded almost to the breaking point. An executive director of the district health council in bustling Halton-Perth region on the west side of Toronto, Isaak has presided over health services planning during a time of rapid population growth and budget cutbacks—a combination that he says “has forced us to be as efficient as possible.” That, combined with other key demographic factors, gives Halton-Perth second place overall in the *Maclean’s* ranking of available services. In a region that has become a magnet for high-tech industries, the people of Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville, Burlington and other burgeoning towns and subdivisions generally have high levels of income and education—advantages directly connected to better health. “Our people are in good shape,” says Isaak. “But they will get sick and have to be treated. And our resources have been badly stretched. At times, it’s been very difficult to keep up with the demands on the system.”

Now, with the budget squeeze and hospital closures of Ontario sweeping health care restructuring mostly in the past, Halton-Perth’s five hospitals and its long-term care services are embarking on an estimated \$900-million expansion program that will add thousands of beds to hospitals and



In Halton-Perth’s airy Credit Valley Hospital, a five-year, \$357-million expansion program will add 119 new beds

long-term facilities in the region within four years. “I think we’ve been pretty successful,” says Isaak, “in persuading the provincial government that we need to pump money into the system to keep up with our tremendous rate of growth.”

Stretching 40 km from Toronto’s western border to the fringes of Hamilton, and north into the rolling farm country around Caledonia and Georgetown, Halton-Perth is booming. Its population of 1.5 million is growing by about 30,000 a year as information technology, manufacturing and service companies flock to the area. Until recently, provincial health-care funding had not kept up with the region’s breakneck growth. As in other parts of the country, patients face long waits for MRI scans to detect cancer and other diseases. Some Halton-Perth residents found a way to jump the months-long queue: provincial officials are investigating whether one Brampton hospital has the low by changing patients’ \$875 to have an MRI done quickly on a privately funded scanner.

Mississauga Credit Valley Hospital is typical in many ways of the district’s approach to health care. The 15-year-old, 366-bed community hospital has a light and airy lobby designed to put patients at ease. Wayne Fyffe, Credit Valley’s CEO, points with pride to a state-of-the-art computer system that delivers laboratory test results, X-rays and other diagnostic data and medical records to hospital personnel at the touch of a few keys. The busy hospital has 60,000 emergency-room visits a year, more than a third involving children, and handles a large number of trauma cases, many from accidents on the networks of highways lacing the area.

The hospital also operates regional genetic screening and dialysis dialysis programs. Its follow-up services for discharged patients include one that connects the elderly and disabled with support services in the community. Fyffe says there is an emphasis on self-improvement at the hospital. “We constantly look at the way we do things,” he adds, “and try to find ways of doing them better.”

A five-year, \$357-million expansion program should help Credit Valley will get 119 new beds and become a regional centre for more specialties, including cancer and

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A therapy garden at Victoria's Juan de Fuca Hospital, high marks for life expectancy and the prevention of falls and pneumonia

bottom in the region can expect to live to the age of 77 and a girl to 81.7," says Patricia Coward, acting chief executive officer for the region. These excellent showings have pushed Victoria to third place overall this year, up from seventh last year. Coward attributes the improvements to the creation three years ago of health regions grouping hospitals and other community health facilities into a single administration. That reorganization, she says, is just beginning to show its benefits in the 1997-to-1999 data used in the ranking. "Regionalization," says Coward, "has allowed us to put more money and resources into the delivery of care."

Bounding scenic beauty and a moderate climate with just half the rain as Vancouver, Victoria has long been a destination for retirees. About 20 per cent of the population is over 65. The same factors have drawn many doctors, giving Victoria high marks in physician per capita. "Doctors are attracted here because it's a really nice place to live and work," says Coward. The region ranges from the southern Gulf Islands on the east to Port Renfrew on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Its facilities include four acute-care hospitals and more than 30 others providing long-term care, children's rehabilitation, and mental-health facilities. The population of 357,000 is affluent and well-educated.

Coward allows that some problems remain in the delivery of hospital services. Average lengths of stay in hospital, for instance, are too long, reflecting a lack of alternative-care facilities in the community. "We need more places outside hospitals where people can spend more recovering from surgery," Coward explains. "That's something we are going to focus on next year." The region is also addressing its high rate of birth by caesarean section, trying to determine if the risky procedure could be avoided in some cases. The findings also show that it is relatively hard to get a hip or knee replacement in Victoria. "The majority of health decisions how many we can do," says Coward. "We are not doing as many as we should."

But, like the top-ranking North Shore region across the Strait of Georgia, the Capital region has good vaccination programs in place to minimize falls and pneumonia. "We also provide immunization for our hospital staff so they don't pass bugs to the patients," Coward explains. Average birth weights are also at a healthy level. Coward cites the availability of a perinatalogist—a specialist in care before and after birth—as a benefit to women with high-risk pregnancies. The region is proud as well of its program to educate patients not to smoke their babies, and the training it provides for four parents caring for babies addicted to nicotine. "We are doing some wonderful things in terms of child care," says Coward. And setting a standard for other regions.

Joanie Hunter
Editor, *Health*

Cover

perhaps. In Victoria as a whole, expansion will add 300 hospital beds to the current inventory of 2,400 and raise more than 3,800 long-term care beds in at least 20 new centres to help cope with the district's rapidly growing population of people 65 and over. "That is a big expansion," says Coward. But given the frantic rate of growth, it likely won't be long before the region has to expand its services again.

Mark Nichols

VICTORIA: Special efforts for the elderly

Along the sidewalks and green of Victoria, vibrant sprays of fluorescent paint capture the eye. "Our city is a veritable feast of colour," notes Eileen Gallagher, a professor of nursing at the University of Victoria. It is not the work of enthusiastic graffiti artists. Instead, municipal workers are welding the spray cans to help senior citizens avoid hip fractures. Their splashes of colour identify dangerous cracks and potholes that cannot immediately be repaired. The paint sprays are part of a public safety program that the UVic nursing school established five years ago in conjunction with Victoria, Saanich and Sidney, the urban areas that make up the Capital Health Region. Thanks to that program and other initiatives, the district at the south end of Vancouver Island does an excellent job of preventing hip fractures, one indicator used in *Health*'s ranking of the availability of health services.

Besides the spray painting, municipal workers repair sidewalk cracks and holes much quicker than in the past. "They are actually rethinking the way they build their sidewalks," says Gallagher. The safety program also encourages seniors to participate in a chi exercise to improve co-ordination and prevent falls. And it has helped Victoria score high marks for life expectancy and prevention of pneumonia and flu. "A boy



John McGarry, CEO of Aramark, in a laundry room.

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Two rural regions lead their section with impressive scores as they face up to the challenge of serving widely dispersed populations

MONCTON: 'Demands are immense'

If patients in Prince Edward Island need brain surgery, chances are they will be sent to Moncton, N.B. The same goes for kidney patients from the northern reaches of New Brunswick who require kidney dialysis. Or even a cancer sufferer living across the Nova Scotia border. Moncton's two hospitals treat 200,000 mostly working-class people scattered across the economically challenged southeast corner of the province. But in the main referral facilities for complex procedures in the area, the Moncton and the Dr. George L. Dumaine Regional hospitals also get more than 20 per cent of their patients from far-off regions of New Brunswick or parts of two neighbouring provinces. "If they are referred to us, they are really sick," says Gisèle Kalaydjie, acting chief executive officer for Moncton Hospital. "The demands are immense."

The specialized services help bring up the ranking scores for these diocese health regions that rely on Moncton's expertise. But the same skills are apparently a blessing for the Moncton region's own residents, giving them access to specialist care relatively close to home. In the rankings of the services available in a region's residents, Moncton sits in first place in the "largely rural" category. The result suggests that the local health workers—from specialists to local clinics and outpatient services—have a good handle on the regional needs.

Moncton ranked second among all 50 regions in minimizing low birth weights, and sixth overall in avoiding hip fractures. The 414-bed Moncton Hospital has specialists in neuro-, vascular and thoracic surgery, provides chemotherapy for cancer patients, runs



a neonatal intensive-care unit and treats HIV and other infectious diseases. George L. Dumaine, with 423 beds, mainly serves the area's large French-speaking community. It offers radiation treatment as well as chemotherapy for cancer patients, kidney dialysis and an obstetrics clinic. "We have different specialties," says Pierre Le Bouthillier, chief executive at George L. Dumaine. "But we cover the spectrum."

Each hospital will soon install new magnetic resonance imaging units to improve the detection of cancer, brain infar-

ctions and bone disease—at \$3 million to \$4 million per unit. And the George L. Dumaine has a project under way to reduce the number of days patients spend in hospital—a measurement, so important, of the availability of follow-up care in the community. That is one area in which New Brunswick's health regions fared poorly in the rankings.

Maintaining high ranks in the middle of fiscal restraint has taken some scrubbing. Adminstrators at both hospitals contend they have done a good job of cutting administration and support costs to save money for patient care. Even so, the hospital motto may be: "The province has given every New Brunswick hospital until June 15 to develop 'action plans' for balancing their budgets. Specialists, however, are already in short supply, a fact underlined by the current 5½-month wait for orthopedic surgery at Moncton Hospital, which posted a \$9.7-million loss in the last fiscal year. At George L. Dumaine, 10 to 15 patients sleep in the emergency ward most nights because no beds are available in the wards. "We can't say no space here and there," says Le Bouthillier, whose facility was \$6 million in the red last year. "But maintaining the basic necessities is going to be a big challenge."

John DeMott

LETHBRIDGE: Top-quality doctors

Stretching outward from the Rockies to the prairie sugar-beet fields near Lethbridge, halfway across the province, the Chinook Health Region sits in a broad, scenic swath of southwestern Alberta. It is a land of ranches, farms and urban dwellings—the latter mostly centred in Lethbridge. It is also home to one of the highest proportions of senior citizens in the province—just under 14 per cent of the roughly 150,000 residents are over 65. So when Gil

Rank by region	OVERVIEW			PREGNANCY CARE			COMMUNITY HEALTH		GERIATRIC SERVICES			HOSPITALS		RESOURCES		
	Rank last year	Overall score	Overall ranking	Life expectancy	Low birth weight	Caesarean section	Deaths after delivery	No. patients	Pneumonia and flu	Hip replacements	Non-invasive treatments	Early discharge	Physician admissions	Physicians per capita	Specialists per capita	
1 Moncton, N.B.	—	81.9	17*	73*	2	30*	48	8	37	13	22	38	38	26	23*	20
2 Lethbridge, Alta.	—	81.9	17*	73*	10	7	28*	1	26	3	5	20*	21	40	31*	31
3 Medicine Hat, Alta.	—	88.8	22	75*	4	37	28*	37	26	26	26	52*	32*	26	16*	26*
4 Trois-Rivières/Grenville/Sherbrooke, Que.	—	78.9	33*	42*	29*	8*	18*	16*	6	44*	46	—	—	26	27*	23
5 Red Deer, Alta.	—	78.1	33*	38*	19*	29	30*	11	49	18	11	33*	38	48	43	48*
6 Innisfail/Sylvan, Alta.	—	77.7	39	18*	47*	22	38*	31*	33	18	13*	25*	32	42	27*	41*
7 Thunder Bay, Ont.	—	76.8	37*	46	1	39	32*	49*	29	21*	36	23*	37	43	32*	19
7* Ottawa South, Ont.	—	78.5	33*	28*	12*	39*	38*	49	44	2	3	29*	8	38	25*	56
8 Saint John, N.B.	—	76.3	43	26	38*	32*	48	25	45	26	6	25*	30	35	23*	18
9 Fredericton	15	75.3	48	38*	11*	47	48	7	48	21	9	39	24	47	35*	24*
10 Hull/Ottawa, Que.	—	74.8	45	43	38*	27	43	30	35	39	29	—	—	32	10	26
11 Antigonish/Cape Breton, N.S.	—	73.9	46	47	13*	18*	6	39	56	6	4	31*	35	48	34	38
12 North Bay/Peterborough, Ont.	—	73.7	43	48*	7	46	56	50	43	6	16	30	12*	27	16	43*
13 Prince Edward Island	—	73.6	46	28*	5*	42*	28*	68*	48	19	35	37	36	58	46	23*
14 Sudbury/Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	10	72.5	46	95*	32*	46	47	43	42	33	27	22*	19	48	42	26*
15 Prince George, B.C.	—	72	90	49*	36*	48	48	36	47	1	2	31*	18	49	27*	37*

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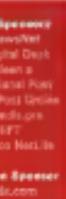
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Cover

In southwest Alberta,
few patients have to be
referred to the big centre

Tourigny, chief executive officer of the Chinook Health Region, is glad to see the initiatives bear most proof of, at first surprising, that he names several and ranged as unique. Among them: a 45-bed geriatric assessment and rehabilitation unit and a series of "enhanced" senior's lodges that provide enough professional care to keep the elderly out of nursing homes for longer. "Seniors consume the greatest proportion of health-care resources," says Tourigny. "They have an impact on everyone in the system."

While seniors are an obvious priority, Tourigny believes the success of the Chinook health authority—and its top spot in the rankings—"largely rural communities" category—has much to do with a government-imposed effort to reorganize health-care delivery. In 1993, Alberta merged 250 hospital and health-care boards into 17 regional and two provincial authorities. The Chinook region's single authority replaced 14 boards. As well as streamlining administration, the reforms gave the region control over nearly every aspect of health-care delivery—and the authority to quickly shift resources from one sector to another. "The trick," says Tourigny, "is to tie to the highest common denominator when you do these things."

Currently, the big push is to improve the level of long-term care. Five years ago, notes Tourigny, there was no waiting list for long-term beds in the Chinook region; projections now show a need for about 250 new spaces by 2006. "A major issue," he says, "is to make sure we provide enough beds spaces for our seniors as the acute care side can contribute to fraction efficiency." Fortunately, adds Tourigny, the Alberta government appears to understand the challenge; last week, the Chinook region secured \$4.8 million in new provincial funding for long-term care.



Rehab at Lethbridge Hospital
trying to upgrade long-term care

Although primarily a rural region, Chinook exports few patients to larger centres. The main exceptions are open-heart and neurosurgery patients, who normally travel to Calgary or Edmonton. Tourigny credits the region's self-sufficiency to the nature of its medical staff. "When I moved here from Calgary five years ago," he says, "I was overwhelmed by the quality of both our medical specialists and our rural family docs."

In the rankings, Chinook scores relatively poorly in terms of physicians and specialists per capita. "But if you compare us to other smaller centres, I think we're not bad," says Tourigny. "We don't have a shortage of physicians and we have almost every specialty covered." But the rankings consistently identify one shortcoming, he acknowledges, in the area of pre-versible admissions—people whose conditions do not necessarily require a hospital stay. "There's a rural factor in play," says Tourigny. Because some residents have to travel distances for care, "our physicians sometimes choose to admit patients for observation, whether that might not be necessary in a large urban centre," is a reminder that delivering health care in rural Canada presents its own set of challenges.

Barrie Bergman

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TRAGEDY in Walkerton

Contaminated water brings death and outrage to an Ontario town

By Barbara Wickens in Walkerton

Judi Doerz was on the brink of tears. "I'm just so sick, so frazzled," she said, her voice quivering. Doerz and her two children, Matt, 10, and Bayley, 7, were among the 5,000 residents of Walkerton, Ont., who had no choice last week with the shocking news that their town's water supply was contaminated by a deadly strain of *E. coli* bacteria. By week's end, the outbreak in the prairie-like farming community 150 km northwest of Toronto had killed five, put dozens in the hospital and sickened more than 1,900 with nausea, severe cramps and bloody diarrhea. But Doerz said that if she and her family have remained healthy so far, it's thanks mainly to good luck. She learned from a friend who works in a local nursing home, where several elderly residents became ill, of rumors circulating about the town's water supply. As a result, Doerz began boiling her family's tap water on May 20—a full day before Dr. Murray McQuigg, the medical officer of health for the Bruce-Grey Owen Sound Health Unit, issued his boil-water warning. "With two kids and two big dogs," she recounted, "as soon as I finished boiling one big pot, I had to start the next."

Four days later, the municipal and local business community began handing out free cases of boiled water. Thus saved Doerz's household somehow. "We're poor," she says, "and I don't have a car, so I had to pull the water home in the kids' wagon." But what really angered and upset her was the claim that some local officials were aware of the problem five days before it became public and did not speak up. In a strongly worded statement he prepared in connection with the chief medical officer of Ontario, McQuigg told a news conference that the Walkerton Public Utilities Commission had sampled the water on May 15. On May 18, he said, the PUC received a fax from the private lab that had tested the water—indicating it was contaminated. The PUC finally acknowledged on May 23 that there was a problem. McQuigg said—and when he presented the results of his own independent water test (a PUC spokesman had the faxed memo, but the reporter did not understand it)—McQuigg's statement left Doerz, whose children have diarrhea among the sick, angry with her town's officials. "I want to grab them by the throat," she said, her hands gesturing in a circle, "and ask them, are their families BP 45's [middle-class]?" Lars, Gary Palomares, president of G&P Environmental Services Inc., a London Ont.-based company that treated Walkerton's water between 1996 and the beginning of May, and thus is suspected of causing the outbreak, is an infection that potentially contaminates surface waters with

Boiling Lesson *At 66, one of the victims questions about who was to blame*



seeping into the town's wells, as early as January. He said he notified in-trapaz authorities and an Ontario environmental ministry office in Owen Sound, assuming the ministry would follow up with the town to ensure it was fixed.

A well-groomed Victorian-era house nestled among the rolling green hills of southwestern Ontario, Walkerton does not look like the sort of place where a deadly pollutant would strike. There are no congested highways, no giant industrial steel tracks spewing grey haze. Instead, the sparkling St. Marys River meanders through the town and surrounding countryside, a popular region for such recreational activities as fishing and canoeing. Elsewhere, on the arid prairie-looking farms, dairy and beef cattle contentedly graze. Ironically, this bucolic beauty may be at the root of Walkerton's problems: investigation suggests no-off-farm cattle excretions are a possible source of the *E. coli* in the water.

However the contamination occurred, the disaster has brought out the best—and the worst—of small-town Canada. Friends and neighbours have gone out of their way to be kind, whether offering a welcoming hand at a funeral or simply asking, "How are you?"—and meaning it. Those in nearby communities such as Huron, where the water tanks are, are letting Walkerton residents live with them until they have the all clear. Companies and local businesses have donated needed supplies, while doctors and nurses from across Ontario began arriving at week's end to relieve medical personnel becoming fatigued by the task. But at the same time, the surroun-

ing people know each other by first name—yet, into high gear. Most distressing was speculation about who was to blame, as some in town say already decide.

Not surprisingly, the repercussions are spreading far beyond Walkerton, where schools have been closed and some businesses have shut their doors until the crisis is over. Canadians everywhere are asking whether a similar tragedy could unfold in their community—and in many cases the answer is yes (page 37). The town of Firestone, Ont., near London, issued a boil-water warning on Saturday after three strains of *E. coli* were detected in its water supply, but there were no indications anyone was affected. The event, in Walkerton, meanwhile, has already sparked a \$1-billion class-action lawsuit, with two more in the works—and three major investigations. Ontario Environment Minister Dan Neeser has called officials from his own ministry ready to determine how the disaster occurred. The Ontario Provincial Police has launched an investigation as has the coroner's office. At the same time, opposition MPs have blamed Mike Harris's Conservative government for the inevitable result of his government's policies, including budget cutting, downsizing and amalgamating.

The first hint of the calamity came when Dr. Kristen Halle, a pediatrician in Owen Sound, saw two young patients on the same day with the same uncommon symptom: bloody diarrhea. Both were from Walkerton, 50 km to the south. Halle ordered blood tests, but rather than waiting the 48 hours for the results—and fearing the two had become ill from tainted food they may have eaten at the same



En route to hospital in London, Ont., representatives of the government leave Walkerton

Distributing bottled water, leading a helping hand

place—the accused McQuigge's office. He launched his investigation, but not in time to stop an epidemic. At week's end, Huller's first two patients were recovering at home, but others did not fare so well. Two people died while in hospital in Walkerton last week and three others died after being admitted 150 km south to the London Health Sciences Centre in London, Ont. They were among the 11 patients who were transferred to other facilities, while the 49-bed Walkerton hospital admitted eight, treated almost 400 in an emergency department and fielded countless telephone calls.

Health officials fear there could be more to come. The main culprit has been identified as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, a lethal strain of the common, usually harmless *E. coli* bug found in the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. But O157:H7, which often originates in the intestines of healthy cattle, can result in permanent kidney damage or be fatal to humans if they ingest it in undercooked hamburgers, unpasteurized milk or tainted water. After an incubation period of two to eight days, an infected person will develop symptoms,



described elsewhere as up to 5,000 3.6-litre jugs of bleach. The water, which also contains teddy bears for sick children and some of the palates of water, was providing the bleach to residents to help purify their drinking water.

Earlier in the day, Environment Minister Newman visited another windy lake, Deep Well 7. With only a modest brown-brick building covering the 60-m deep stream well dug in 1988, the site seemed unremarkable—except for two things. One was the overwhelming smell of chlorine as work crews can treated to flush the system. Second, as one of the town's seven wells supplying water, it was a possible source of the contamination. But Newman bristled at reporters' suggestion that the crisis could have been a result of the Conservative government's downloading of services on to municipalities. He noted that Walkerton always had operated its own water system.

Newman, however, may be harder pressed in the weeks to come to explain his own ministry's role in the tragedy. According to NDP Environment critic Marilyn Chedley, since coming to power in 1995 the Conservatives have slashed the environment ministry's budget by 40 per cent. That resulted, she says, in the ministry cutting a third of its staff and closing regional offices, including four water-testing laboratories.

Premier Harris, who visited Walkerton on Friday, denied that government inaction had played any part in the disaster. But critics say cutbacks and downloading have resulted in a weakened system of checks and balances. Since privatizing water testing in 1996, the government has acquired private laboratories to inspect the water only to the municipality that requested the tests. Under the old system, the government laboratories that did most of the water testing also had to report health concerns to a director manager in the ministry, as well as to other medical officials. After persistent questioning, Newman acknowledged to reporters that if the government had still been in charge of testing, the boil-water warning would have been issued sooner. "Of course, we would have, that's what any responsible person would do," he said. But what would have or should have happened are cold comfort to the people of Walkerton, grieving over what did happen—and fearing that such a tragedy will never occur again.

Provincial health officials fear there could be more to come this week



including diarrhea, that last up to 10 days. Given the sluggish times in which people started boiling water, new cases could still show up all this week. There are little doctors can do for most patients, other than making sure they get plenty of fluids, either orally or intravenously, and letting the illness run its course. But in some people—children and the elderly are most at risk—further complications may arise when the bacteria creates a toxin that results in hemolytic-uremic syndrome, a potentially fatal kidney disease.

On a cool and windy spring evening last week, the mood at the Walkerton Community Centre, usually the scene of a great deal of fun, was somber. The ice in the rink was long gone, instead, patches of boiled water covered parts of the rink's floor. Outside, temperatures had fallen to a local record low. Local media, from a local soccer team to local radio stations, had gathered at a small hall nearby. The water was being tested as a result, but nearby sensors of drivers pulled up. Randy Willick, a grain wholesaler and one of the town's coaches, seemed proud of the young people who gave up their practice to help out. "The authorities do whatever they can, that's the best," he said. Barbara MacArthur, a homekeeper overseeing the volunteers because, as she put it, "I just couldn't sit at home," nodded in agreement. Her attention was diverted as a tractor-tire from Zellers pulled up and the

GOVERNMENT

For Info

With Cheryl Housler in Waterloo

Worries over Water

What happened in Walkerton could also hit other communities

By Danyelle Hawkes

Drinking water in Canada is supposed to be safe. That is an amazing millions of Canadians risks every day when they brush their teeth, shower or grab a refreshing glassful. But as the drama in Walkerton, Ont., last week showed, water can suddenly turn deadly for city dwellers, it is important to know their water is used several times a day. But many rural inhabitants across the country do not an untested groundwater, content with the knowledge that what was good enough for their grandparents is good enough for them. "When people we've talked to have never had their water checked," says Brad Farley, manager of the water-quality unit in Region of Agriculture Canada's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. "They have no idea what's in it."

The spread of intensive livestock rearing, the common use of pesticides and a variety of industrial toxins spewed into the environment can all test a community's capacity to ensure a safe water supply. Factor in aging water-treatment plants and shrinking municipal budgets and another Walkerton is certainly possible. Western Canada has some of the worst water in North America, says Farley, whose agency helps individual farmers and rural communities across the West to safeguard and improve water supplies. Some of the solutions are simple: growing grass along the banks of waterways to reduce soil erosion into the spread of disease-causing animal feces and pesticides, while fencing can prevent livestock from defecating in creeks and streams. The federal agency also promotes an inexpensive, low-risk alternative called slow and filtered. A gravity-fed system used in the Third World, it draws water through sand, with bacteria breaking down naturally on the surface to eat the harmful bacteria, says Farley, "it's a rough-hewn. The concept of bacteria eating other bacteria is sometimes difficult to understand."

Manitobans have had their share of problems as well. Glynis MacLeod, a mother of four who works as a school janitor,



Deep Well 7 in Walkerton, Ontario Environment Minister Steve Newman (right) at a national problem

has lived in Joliette, a small rural community in southern Cape Breton, all her life. She of course experienced last fall when the community informed residents that their water had unsafe levels of a suspected carcinogen, endulamaldehyde, a byproduct of treating water with chlorine. On May 2, the provincial environmental department gave the water-supply town bill of health. "On that day," says MacLeod, "we're still nervous—the Ottawa situation puts makes it worse."

The situation is generally better in cities, which can draw on large water bodies to modernize equipment. But in 1997, as city officials in Moncton, N.B., were evaluating proposals for a new water-treatment plant, they found hazardous fecal coliform bacteria

in the water. For five weeks, the 80,000 residents on the city water system had to boil their water in the fall of 1999, and don't had to do the same for 25 days when weekly test results showed high levels of coliform bacteria. Today with water filtering through the new \$25-million plant and new pipes, the city community seems to exceed drinking-water standards.

In many countries, meeting such standards could become difficult. Ronald Gehr, a professor of civil engineering at McGill University in Montreal, says many of Canada's wastewater plants were built in the 1950s and 1960s. That aging infrastructure, he warns, will likely require expensive upgrades to keep pace with the needs of urban sprawl and industrial waste filtering. Therefore the Walkerton should "wake us up," says Gehr, "and make us realize we may have to re-examine many of these rural treatment plants." And stop taking water for granted.

With John Delaney in Joliette and Amy Gleason in Toronto



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Fighting deportation

The Supreme Court of Canada will consider whether immigrants deserve to be security risks can be deported to their home country if they face the risk of war. The court will hear the appeals of Mervakavuwan Ratnayake, who is from Sri Lanka and is a former leader of the Tamil Tigers, and Manohar Ahluwalia, a former Indian senior service aper. Both are fighting deportation, claiming they will be tortured or executed if they return home.

Lloyd's cancels a sea search

Lloyd's of London decided it will not search the seabed off Nova Scotia for \$380 million in jewels lost in the 1988 crash of Swissair Flight 111, which killed all 229 people onboard. Family members of crash victims were shocked when the insurance company applied for a recovery license, saying the search would disturb a sacred site.

Placards at a union office

Placards were up outside Canadian Auto Workers union offices after 92 clerical workers walked off the job over a dispute regarding pensions. The workers are asking the same pension negotiated in 1999 for CAW members who work at offices at Chrysler, Ford and General Motors.

Bail for a porn star

Former porn star Kathryn Dawson, better known as Mudhoney Star, was arrested in Vancouver, but received bail while she awaits a June 26 extradition hearing. U.S. authorities allege that the B.C. native received illegal kickbacks from her former lover James McDermott Jr., a Wall Street investment banker who was found guilty of securities fraud in April.

Facing an anti-gay backlash

Canadian Alliance leadership candidate Tom Long responded to an interview request by the pro-life Campaign Life Coalition that he was a danger to Canada because one of his advisors are gay. "I will not tolerate discrimination of any kind," he said. Fellow candidate Smokey Day denied suggestions from the Long camp that he was behind the report.



A homecoming for the Unknown Soldier

Canada's Unknown Soldier came home—from the cemetery at Vimy Ridge, where he died during the Amiens 1917 battle that cost the Germans nearly 50,000 casualties. The body lay in state in Ottawa before being interred in a new tomb at the National War Memorial. "This young man represents all those who have answered the call to duty," said Veterans Affairs Minister George Taylor.

An illegal walkout hits Alberta

Ten thousand health care workers in Alberta walked off the job for an illegal two-day strike that forced hospitals to cancel surgeries and discharge hundreds of patients. In a related settlement, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the Provincial Health Authorities of Alberta finally agreed to a contract that will give licensed practical nurses—the bane of the four groups of working workers—a 16-per-cent increase over two years. The deal also contained an amnesty for union members who walked out, although

the union itself was fined \$400,000 for contempt of court after defying a Labour Relations Board order.

Health care in Alberta was one of the main topics of debate in the annual western premiers' meeting. Alberta Conservative Premier Ralph Klein faced off against his NDP counterparts—Ujjal Dosanjh of British Columbia, Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan and Manitoba's Gary Doer—over his province's Bill 11. That legislation, passed on May 16, expands the role of private clinics in Alberta, and has raised fears it will result in a two-tiered health care system. In the end, Romanow and Doer adopted a "wait and see" attitude about the legislation.

Gary Filmon calls it quits

Former Manitoba premier Gary Filmon resigned as leader of the provincial Conservatives, saying he will never sit in the legislature that he helped end a 25-year career in politics, with 11 years spent as premier of Manitoba and Gary Doer's New Democrats assumed the Tories in 1999. Filmon's government managed to balance the provincial budget, but his time in office was also marked by the legislature's failure to ratify the Mactaquac accord in 1996 (the vote was stalled by native MLA Elijah Harper).

Canadian forensic experts are helping East Timor solve grisly crimes of the recent past

By Warren Carnegut in Jakarta

Five days after an Australian-led peacekeeping force landed in East Timor on Sept. 20, 1999, a census that included nuns and other Catholic clerics left the same market town of Lospalos. The arrival of foreign soldiers, including 281 Canadians, and their deployment throughout the territory was supposed to end the murder and destruction that followed East Timor's vote for independence from Indonesia last August. But troops would not reach Lospalos for another week, and for some of the survivors, including two nuns and a courage girl, the day would end in death. In one of the final acts of mayhem, a militia group with ties to the Indonesian military ambushed the group along a quiet rural road, slaughtered eight people and threw their bodies into a sewer.

Now, months later, two Canadian forensic experts have helped piece together what exactly happened on that bloody Sunday in the hands of Team Alpha, one of East Timor's most notorious militia groups. For former RCMP officer Bob Stair and his son, the work involved the painstaking identification of the victims, comparing the remains with what they knew from relatives and friends. For the benefit of the police and prosecution, they also had to determine the cause of death. "It's one thing to say they were shot, but it's better to be able to prove it," says Stair, who recently assumed to British Columbia where he works with the B.C. Coroners' Office in Burnaby.

Stair, who went to East Timor in early March on a trip financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, has done work like this before: Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. The task is always the same: trying to make sense of the horrors that people can inflict on their neighbours, trying to bring justice for the victim whose remains he digs up. "Our job is the dead people," he says. "We're the only people representing them."

One day, having just returned to East Timor's capital of Dili from Lospalos, Stair hardly looked like someone who had spent the weekend living in a tree while digging up the decomposed remains of people who suffered a brutal death. Wearing a Regis Archeological Society T-shirt, he sipped



Looking at the remains of victims: a brutal and deadly campaign by ruthless militia groups

beer and telephone system, especially outside Dili, are only slowly being repaired. There is no access to X-rays or the rare sophisticated tools of the trade, like DNA typing, and there is only one morgue in Dili, to provide refrigeration for bodies—a problem given East Timor's humid, tropical weather.

Stair says the work can sometimes be done in the field, but samples require plenty of running water, which is often lacking outside the capital. "Doing it with a bucket of water doesn't work," he explains. But transporting the bodies to the morgue in Dili was neither pleasant nor efficient. In fact, every detail about a corpse can tell an important part of the crime story. "The dead will yield an amazing amount of information," says Skinner, "but the body has to be treated in a way that's going to give you that information." And that, given East Timor's miasmal, bumpy roads, can often be impossible.

Focus is everything—to keep from getting sick or overwhelmed by the mental and physical horrors. "We're not busy at the time to worry about that," Stair says. "You get pretty numb after a while." Getting emotional can also interfere with the work—and how well the work gets done can determine whether the killers will ever be brought to justice. Sometimes, though, certain aspects of the job are overwhelming. "The thing that still bothers us is the children," says Stair. "They are really innocent victims. They have no say."

Stair has worked as a forensics expert, both internationally and as an RCMP officer, for 26 years, and seen more than 600 homicides including the Clifford Olson murders, but he still shudders over East Timor's own unique cluster of hell bodies hacked to death with machetes, people shot with hunting weapons, firing, such projectiles as socks and nails. "This is so unusual," he says, "for a Canadian to see these kind of things."

Stair, who was raised on a farm near Brantford, Ont., and owns a 35-acre spread near Keha in the central Kosteniug region of British Columbia, did enjoy the time he spent with East Timorese peasants. "They are like the rural people where I grew up," he says. But in their loss, he adds, there is horror everywhere you look." He has come to respect that decent people can in the right circumstances, turn into cold-blooded killers. "Every one of us has the potential—you don't know until you see them," he notes. Despite that, Stair remains optimistic about his fellow human beings. "I still look for the inherent good in people. I look for hope." Even when he is dealing in death. ■

The Death Detectives

incurable on the terrace of the United Nations lanchester—an optimist, open man with a quirky smile and clear blue eyes. His work may deal with horrors that most others might shun, but he was clearly at peace with what he does. "I love it," he bluntly told MacLean's.

Sadly, it is a job much in demand in East Timor. Early reports last year suggested thousands of East Timorese had died at the hands of the Indonesian military and their supporters in the militia. And although it was never clear the toll is now likely to be about 1,600, East Timor has little of anything, let alone such highly skilled professionals as pathologists and forensic anthropologists. So the United Nations, which is overseeing the territory's transition to independence, brought in foreigners on short-term contracts to investigate the deaths.

This included Stair and his colleagues, Dr. Mike Polson, a pathologist, and Dr. Kathy Grapier, a forensic anthropologist, both from the Ontario Coroners' Office in Toronto. Another Canadian, Matt Skinner, a third-year forensic anthropology student at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., worked



Stair at home in Burnaby, Canada. "Our job is the dead"—we're representing them."

alongside the team as a volunteer for the United Nations, which only covered his expenses. Skinner's father, Mark, an anthropologist professor at Simon Fraser, was the first forensic expert to arrive in Timor last fall, when the crime scenes were still fresh (there are only a few mass graves—many bodies were simply left in rice or corn fields). When he returned to Vancouver, he convinced Matt to volunteer. "You can't beat this kind of experience," Matt Skinner says.

East Timor posed some unique challenges. There was one particular danger for the investigators: tuberculosis. The disease is rampant in East Timor and because the virus remains active long after the body is infected and dead, the forensic team had to take special care to wear protective clothing and masks. And then there was the professional challenge: most buildings were looted and destroyed in last year's violence, while

A woman from small-town Canada is shaking up Washington as she advances the cause of gay rights

Working the System

By Andrew Phillips at Washington

Elizabeth Birch always knew she was different. To all appearances, growing up across Canada as the daughter of an air force officer, she was perfectly "normal." A high-performing student and super-keen athlete. Elected head of her junior high school in Winnipeg, then student council president of her high school in Oshawa, Ont. But all along, she recalls now, "I hated it, just absolutely hated it. I felt like I was on a foreign planet." By the time she was 12, Birch figured out the reason: she was gay.

It was four more years before she fled— from her family in Oshawa, from Canada. Up With People, the relentlessly upbeat international song-and-dance troupe for young people, came to town. She signed on, and spent a year travelling through Europe, North Africa and the United States. "It was totally schizoid," she says with an embarrassed laugh. Some other members of the group, it turned out, were also gay. For the first time, Birch connected with people like her. "It saved my life."

A quarter-century later, Birch has done much more than save her own life. At 43, she runs the Human Rights Campaign, the biggest, most effective gay-rights organization in the United States. In five years, she has tripled its staff, its budget and its membership—bringing skills she learned in a Silicon Valley lawyer to a movement better known for social activism. In late April, she helped to stage the biggest-ever gay and lesbian show of strength in Washington: a demonstration, same-sex formal and rock concert that drew hundreds of thousands to the capital. But she has become best known for waging the synopses. She and her partner, 41-year-old Hilary Rosen, head of the Breeding Industry Association of America, form one of Washington's certified power couples, drawing politicians and other movers and shakers to their stridently modern substation home in Chevy Chase, Md. "We always had an activist spirit," she says, "but a capitalist heart."

It hasn't all been easy. At home with Rosen after a



long day, Birch plays with Jacob and Anna, the twins they adopted at birth 17 months ago. The adoption became public, and Birch and Rosen were attacked by conservatives, including radio commentator DeLorean Schlesinger and a group called the Family Research Council. Even as both babies were through life-threatening medical crises, the council accused Birch and Rosen of putting "induced sexual activities" before the children's happiness. And Schlesinger wrote in her syndicated column, "This has gone too far. We cannot continue to sacrifice our children on

Birch (left) and Rosen at their Maryland home; lobbying, staging massive street fests and building a powerful organization

the altar of freedom and 'diversity.'" Even now, Birch shudders upon the memory: "I can't tell you. It was the worst experience of my life."

For the most part, though, Birch's odyssey from blue-collar Oshawa to the Human Rights Campaign's tony offices just off K Street, home to Washington's most powerful law firms and lobbyists, has been a story of self-discovery and remarkable achievement. Born on a military base in Dayton, Ohio, where her father, an aeronautical engineer with the Canadian air force, was sent to study in 1956, she was raised an assimilated Canadian. Camp Borden, Ont., Camox, B.C., and Cold Lake, Alta. Early on, it was clear that she wasn't going to fit in. At age 13, the tomboyish running back in Winnipeg from Oshawa moved to Anne Murray (an icon for leisured singing records there). As students crossed presidents

Rights Campaign gala dinner in Washington and meeting Vice-President Al Gore, her tolerance was tested: until when Birch's younger sister Jo-Ann revealed that she, too, is gay. (The Birchs also have another daughter and two sons.)

Birch moved with a girlfriend to Hawaii, then studied law at Santa Clara University, California. In 1985, she joined one of San Francisco's big law firms, then became chief litigator for Apple Computer Inc. There she helped to persuade the company's then-CEO John Sculley to extend benefits to domestic partners of homosexual couples. All along she had been involved with gay causes. When the Human Rights Campaign went looking for a new executive director in 1994, Birch was nominated.

The Republicans under Newt Gingrich had just taken over Congress with a radical right agenda, and the Human Rights Campaign wanted a leader who could deal with the new power in Washington. Birch, with her corporate background and drum-for-success style, fit the bill. She brought in up-to-the-minute communications and marketing techniques. She studied organizational methods promoted by groups in dispute: in the Christian Coalition and the American Association of Retired Persons, regarded as among the most effective Washington lobbies. "What were trying to build," she says, "is a big, gay AAP—meaning an organization that knows how to wield the levers of power while providing valuable services to its constituency."

In sheer organizational terms, it has paid off. When Birch arrived in January 1995, the organization had 21 staffers, a \$1.5-million budget and 80,000 members. This year, it has 92 employees, \$31.5 million and more than 350,000 paid-up members. Much of the money goes toward lobbying Congress, which in recent years has often been fighting measures proposed by Republicans that homosexuals abhor. The Human Rights Campaign has successfully fought off many proposals, but it earned a major defeat in 1996 when Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, thus denying gay couples federal benefits. The bill was designed largely to put Democrats on the spot just before their elections. President Bill Clinton signed it, and was then challenged that would make his party less vulnerable to conservative voters. "It'll be one of his most shameful moments," Birch says. "They had him over a barrel, and he thought."

In fact, Birch has had many meetings with Clinton, who she says has "a fundamentally good heart on these issues." She persuaded him to attend the campaign's annual Washington fund-raising dinner in 1997, the first time a sitting president had addressed a gay-rights event. And in a rare fit, along with a platoon for when the crowd喧哗, are photos of Bill and Hillary Clinton with Birch and Hilary Rosen. Together they make a formidable couple at head of the according association. Rosen is one of Washington's top lobbyists, with a salary that *Washingtonian* magazine recently put at \$100,000 (U.S.). Rosen is to the record industry, The Washington Post once wrote, "what Jack Palance is to Hollywood—the water carrier, the spin doc, the super-schmoozer."

Birch's business-as-usual style isn't universally popular. Some

Human Rights Campaign

by this



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World

other homosexual-rights groups criticize the Human Rights Campaign as too timid, too dedicated to working the system rather than changing it. Birch counters that it reflects where most gay people are now—living mostly anonymous lives in mainstream communities. "You can say, 'This is all I want,' " he says. "But maybe that's the point."

One aspect of this new assertiveness is what Birch calls the "gayby boom"—gay couples raising children through adoption, artificial insemination or from previous marriage. With Jacob and Asia now touring around their English house (complete with indoor pool and a "wedding tower"), Birch and Ross find themselves living that trend. Another is the drive for so-called gay marriage—or something close to it. In late April, Wyoming became the first state to legalize "civil unions" for homosexual couples, giving them a range of benefits and legal rights. But Birch recognizes that going any farther will be very difficult. "The whole notion of gay marriage casts everything from anger to mystery to rage," she says. "It's the toughest issue, and it will take the longest to resolve."

For inspiration, Birch sometimes looks north to the country she left behind 26 years ago. As a teenager, she dreamed of becoming a member of Parliament, but thought that world would be impossible once she realized she was gay. "Stonewall [Robinson] lived out my dreams," she says, referring to the openly gay British Columbia MP. "Without a local figure and fine gay people have simply been elected to office in Canada." In the United States, the presence of a powerful religious right makes the desire for gay rights more hostile. "You have this firebrand, obsessive type of politics that moves out of the realm of the rational into the realm of the hyper-religious," Birch says. "In Canada, people live and breathe the separation of church and state." And that, Birch knows now, makes her own story doubly tragic. "Everything I dreamt of for the United States should exist in Canada, I think, short of [gay] marriage," she says. "That's the big paradox of my life: my big journey out of Canada, but I needed to live—to find myself." ■

Ethiopian advances

Ethiopia captured the key border town of Zalambessa and advanced well into Eritrean territory. Faced with the renewed offensive, Eritrean fed *weissatz* (cattle) in the week that a world withdrawal from all territory it captured in the start of the border war in May 1998, but Ethiopia and Eritrean would end only when it had verified Eritrea's withdrawal. Peace talks were scheduled for this week.

Proclaiming innocence

John and Penny Ramsey, whose 16-year-old daughter, JonBenét, was murdered in December 1996, said that a lie detector test, which they had arranged, cleared them of any involvement in her death. No charges have ever been laid in the murder, after a controversial investigation critics say was botched.

Standoff in Fiji

Rabalei commanded to hold Fiji's prime minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, and dozens of legislators hostage after an armed coup on May 19. Chaudhry is the first leader of Fiji to be ousted in a coup by the South Lefasian Army rebels, known as warlords. As many as 1,500 soldiers and civilians were imprisoned by the Syrian-backed Lebanese government. Another 7,000 refugees fled to Israel, where they are seeking asylum.

Emboldened, Hencholish guerrillas threatened to continue fighting if Israel did not withdraw from an area known as the Sheba Farms—a disputed plateau near the Golan Heights that Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and over which Lebanon claims sovereignty. But Israel warned both Hencholish and the Lebanese government that any attack on Israel from Lebanon would now be viewed as an "act of war." No surge on Lebanon would be imminent, he said in a video conference on Syria, which has 35,000 refugees in Israel. But Israel also called for peace. "Israel," he said, "isn't in our hand."



Surf's up in south Lebanon, a 22-year occupation

World Notes

Israeli troops pull out

Hencholish fighters drove standard tanks from village to village as they confiscated Israeli's southern department from south Lebanon. Israel had occupied a deep stretch of its northern neighbor for 22 years, and its swift pullout six weeks ahead of schedule ended what Prime Minister Ehud Barak said had been a "tragedy" for his country. And lastly announced it would pull its troops out of the 14-km border since a July that the sudden collapse of its ally, the South Lebanon Army rebels, hastened its withdrawal. As many as 1,500 soldiers and civilians were imprisoned by the Syrian-backed Lebanese government. Another 7,000 refugees fled to Israel, where they are seeking asylum.

Emboldened, Hencholish guerrillas threatened to continue fighting if Israel did not withdraw from an area known as the Sheba Farms—a disputed plateau near the Golan Heights that Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and over which Lebanon claims sovereignty. But Israel warned both Hencholish and the Lebanese government that any attack on Israel from Lebanon would now be viewed as an "act of war." No surge on Lebanon would be imminent, he said in a video conference on Syria, which has 35,000 refugees in Israel. But Israel also called for peace. "Israel," he said, "isn't in our hand."

China moves closer to the WTO

China hailed as "wise" a U.S. House of Representatives vote to resolve trade relations with the Asian giant and paving the way for an ratify into the World Trade Organization. The legislation, which passed by a comfortable 237-197 vote, was a major victory for President Bill Clinton, who wanted China's entry into the WTO to be a defining element of his presidency. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji also saluted the resolution on the vote and may have been forced to resign if it had failed. The U.S. Senate is now expected to pass the legislation.

Media deaths in a danger zone

Friends and colleagues observed a moment's silence in honour Kart Schools, 53, a reporter with Reuters news service, and Miguel Cu Marmo de Mora, 31, a cameraman for Associated Press Television News, who were killed when rebels ambushed their vehicles in Sierra Leone. Schools

had covered the Gulf War and the Bosnian conflict. Gili Meron de Mora had also covered the Balkans and Chechnya. Both died after coming under fire near Baghert Junction, about 80 km east of the capital of Freetown. Two other Reuters journalists, South African cameraman Mark Chavolos and Greek photographer Yannis Behrakis, escaped with slight injuries. Four government soldiers also died at the scene.



Suing Your Broker

An investor's \$2-million legal victory puts new pressure on advisers

By Brenda Branswell in Montreal

When Armand Laffosse decided to sue his stockbroker in 1991 for managing his investment and egg, the Quebec businessman found he'd caught up in a contentious legal struggle. When the case finally made it to trial in 1996, Laffosse faced on the first day and spent a few days in hospital. His battle against broker Jules Roy and Prudential-Bache Commodity Canada Ltd. eventually wound up at the Supreme Court of Canada in November. Lafosse, 71, now retired and suffering from Parkinson's disease, travelled to Ottawa to attend the hearing. His trial and legal team paid off. In early May, the court ordered both parties to pay Lafosse some \$2 million, including nine years of interest. Recently, at his Saint-Apollinaire home near Quebec City, an emotional Lafosse wore a radiant smile, basking in the victory. But when he relaxed the smile, he started to weep. "We never gave up," said his wife, Isabelle Boulard. "It's a good thing," added Lafosse, "that I'm a lion."

His hard-fought victory and hefty award brought cheer from many investors across the country—and drew keen scrutiny from brokerage firms. With a rising number of Canadians investing in the stock market, Lafosse's saga serves as a cautionary tale for investors and financial advisers. Some observers predict it will spur more complaints and legal action against the country's 20,000 brokers. Darryl Munn, a Toronto lawyer who specializes in securities cases, says increasingly savvy investors, aware of large court awards, are "becoming more inclined to exercise their rights and seek recourse." Brokerages, adds Munn, are taking active steps to increase their proficiency. Prominent Montreal attorney-counselor Stephen Jarakowsky, who appeared as an expert witness for Lafosse in the original trial, says that since the recent decision he has received similar requests from others using their brokers.

Lafosse's dissension forced into the stock market began when he sold the successful window and door business that he set up with his brother. In 1987, he met with Roy, who then

Laffosse (right) looks over legal papers with Boulard
in knowledge of the market

wedged for Barns Roy, and invested more than \$1 million in the stock market. The account was set up as non-discretionary, meaning that Roy had to confer with Lafosse over each transaction. With a Grade 4 education and no knowledge of the stock market, Lafosse relied on Roy. "I didn't know any company. I didn't know anything," says Lafosse, who was mentored in learned from his advisor in 1988 that Roy, who moved to Prudential-Bache that year, was managing the portfolio on margin and making some speculative investments. Lafosse's daughter wrote Roy a series of letters directing him to make safe investments and to sell certain shares. But when he closed his account in the spring of 1990, Lafosse had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The trial court judge ruled that Roy failed his basic obligation to know his client by ignoring Lafosse's subjective, "which was to re-establish a retirement fund for himself after a lifetime of hard work." At issue before the Supreme Court was at what point Roy and Prudential-Bache's liability ended. The Quebec Court of Appeals ruled that it ended shortly after they received a May, 1989, letter from the daughter, because Lafosse had sufficient information to close the account and stop the hemorrhaging. But the Supreme Court disagreed, ruling it could only after Lafosse closed the account. While some play down the impact of the decision as being too specific to Quebec law and the details of the case, others caution that the ruling will reverberate in the industry. "It's very good to see something like this finally being decided in this manner," says Jarakowsky, "because everybody out on Bay Street and on St. James Street knows of these types of accounts and broker shops and all kinds of operations. I'm not saying that it's going to change human nature. It's just going to make a lot of people more cautious."

The ruling certainly reinforces for brokers the cardinal "know your client" rule. When clients open brokerage accounts, they sign a form outlining their rights and seek recourse. Brokerages, adds Munn, are taking active steps to increase their proficiency. Prominent Montreal attorney-counselor Stephen Jarakowsky, who appeared as an expert witness for Lafosse in the original trial, says that since the recent decision he has received similar requests from others using their brokers.

Roy, who now works as a broker in Florida, always maintained he acted on Lafosse's instructions (Prudential no longer operates a retail brokerage in Canada). Edward

Aroneff, a Montreal lawyer who represented them in the lawsuit, notes that Lafosse held onto a particular block of shares after May, 1989, "but when it went south, when the price fell off, then they complained." Lafosse's lawyer, Serge Lévesque, believes the court created a precedent by ruling that Roy effectively managed the portfolio as a discretionary basis.

Other issues are looming. One is from Sean Boutil, founder of the Markham, Ont.-based Small Investor Protection Association, who has already spent more than \$80,000 on a four-year legal battle. He accuses his former broker of "churning his account"—executing transactions for the sole of earning commissions—as well as putting the account in margin and buying inappropriate securities. A trial date hasn't been set.

Boutil contends that a federal securities regulator intended to issue one of the current industry groups the power to order injunctions. And in a report on investment funds for Industry Canada last year, former Ontario Securities Commission member Colleen Scronce Scronce called for a better system of consumer redress. "What I think is a real industry problem is the time that it takes to address consumers' complaints," says Scronce. For disputes involving amounts up to \$100,000, the Investment Dealers Association of Canada often binding arbitration as an alternative to litigation. But Scronce Scronce cautions that arbitration "usually works best when parties are basically of equal strength."

Does the United States—with its federal regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission—offer better protection to investors than Canada? "I think a consumer that they are better protected—I have my doubts," says Scronce. But Tom Delaney, a Toronto mutual funds dealer who chairs the financial services committee of the Consumers' Association of Canada, believes the SEC is far more effective because it "strikes terror into the hearts of people in that industry." He would also like to see an independent ombudsman for investors in Canada instead of using the IDA. "It's like putting General Meese in charge of bad auto."

In his kitchen, Lafosse can look out across the street at the company he helped build up over 42 years. He and Boulard, who have nine children, continue to live quiet lives in their comfortable grey-stone home. They have no plans to splash with their newfound money. "We'll lead the same lifestyle," says Boulard. Lafosse is not sure if he will re-enter the stock market again. But he does have a simple piece of advice for other investors: read carefully—and don't sign anything without talking to a lawyer. ■

Keeping watch

What can investors do to make sure their brokers are handling their investments properly? Advice from experts:

- Ensure that you and your broker have a written statement of investment goals and performance benchmarks.
- Check your account statement. In a non-discretionary account, make sure all kinds of transactions were authorized.
- Choose your broker carefully. Look for professional qualifications. Don't use a friend or relative.

Source: Association of Securities and Financial Markets and the Investment Dealers Association of Canada



Deirdre McMurdy

Shunning the 'D' word

At first glance, it is simply another financial market paradigm: just when North American companies are reporting stronger-than-expected first-quarter earnings, stock markets have stumbled badly. In part, the sharp sell-off in equities reflects investors' growing discomfort with the steady rise of mergers and acquisitions in Canada and the United States. It reflects a concern of investors, widespread skepticism about the near-term future for high-flying technology stocks. But for many professional investors, there is another factor in the mix: a backlash against the relentless pace of corporate mergers and acquisitions—and their potentially explosive impact on the financial stability of a wide array of companies.

For the past several years, a record number of respondents have aggressively sought growth at whatever price. Increasingly, using their market-inflated shares as currency, Mergers and acquisitions have generally been acknowledged as the cheapest, fastest way to achieve several strategic ends simultaneously: expanding into new markets, building market share, improving economies of scale or securing the latest technology. The appeal of big-ticket transactions has extended from Old Economy manufacturers and resource producers to cutting-edge high-tech ventures. And for the most part, these deals have been welcomed with gushing enthusiasm about potential synergies and savings.

Increasingly, however, it has become apparent that those benefits are harder to realize in real life than they are on paper. Following their earnings merger earlier this year, employees of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines are now openly embroiled in a bitter fight over seniority within their combined ranks. If Air Canada pilots follow up on their threats to strike and Canadian pilots cross their pilots' lines to work, the internal division could become even deeper and more costly. At the same time, the Toronto Dominion Bank recently allowed that it may take longer than the three years originally estimated to blend in the acquired assets of Canada Trust. And it has also become less clear what the cost of the cultural and physical process may ultimately be for TD Bank—or how much of Canada Trust's retail client base can be retained. Similarly, BCE Inc.'s future profit prospects for its most recent major purchase, long-distance carrier Teleglobe Inc., have already been revised downwards.

Part of the problem is that the emotional shift of the class tends to blind senior management to some of the more obvious pitfalls of a deal they are pursuing. Consider the case of Tavar Corp.'s failed attempt to take over rival newspaper firm Sun Media Corp. for year. As that drama unfolded, Tavar stopped its own initial bid, even before

Quebecor Inc.—the ultimate victim—surfaced with an offer. In many cases, this dynamic is fuelled by corporate finance advisers who only collect their full set of fees if a deal is completed. Layered on top of that is management's relentless quest for larger returns and, in highly competitive capital markets, for new ways to attract the attention of large institutions.

However, the past history of growth by acquisition—whether funded by debt or equity—is not very encouraging for investors. Webcor Canada, the list includes such notorious cash-and-burn examples as Dorex Petroleum Ltd., the Lomax Group Inc., Philip Services Corp. and Ladbrooke Inc. Each of these failed companies embarked on ambitious campaigns using borrowed money to finance corporate growth. Where debt is used to fund such splashy deals, success of that debt tends to gobble up cash flow—especially in an environment where interest rates are on the rise. That squeeze in turn inhibits the realization of the financial economies of scale.

But when equity is used as currency in a big purchase, over the long-term it can act like a sine wave. Early on, the acquiree can grab cash flow and the illusion of performance that sustaining those results is a huge challenge. It can dilute earnings and, particularly if the stock of the purchaser declines in value—as in the case of BCE's acquisition of Teleglobe—the new cost multiple for a deal can quickly become excessive and write-offs can start to escalate. "People get fixated by the short-term growth requirements," explains portfolio manager Richard Stone, president of Stone & Co. Ltd. in Toronto. "The initial pop in earnings is not false, but it's absolutely not sustainable in most cases."

Analyst Jeremy Burge of TD Securities, who focuses on the dual-channel telecommunications business, says that as long-term companies within the sector are playing the M&A game, the consequences tend to be overlooked. But as interest rates rise and investors begin to review their equity holdings closely, the distinction between organic and acquired growth rates on a new significance. Cisco Systems of California, which has made 23 acquisitions over the past year, has recently attracted mixed criticism for its heavy reliance on purchased expansion.

To what extent willfully corporate finance teams continue to undermine the resilience of stock markets will become more apparent over the next quarter. Already, investment analysts are sharply divided on whether the recent, steady downward correction is a serious correction. Even so, one thing is certain: for skeptical investors, "dead" is quickly becoming another four-letter word.

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ATI takes a dive

The share of Markham, Ont.-based ATI Technologies Inc., one of the world's biggest makers of computer graphics hardware, took a beating after the company warned that it will post a loss in the third quarter. Its shares ended the week down 45 per cent, at \$13.90. Company officials blamed intense price competition and a global shortage of components.

Microsoft's reckoning

The judge in the Microsoft Corp. antitrust case shocked the participants by abruptly calling an end to the penalty phase of the proceedings. U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, whose decision is due soon, suggested that upping the giant software maker's fine there would be preferable to dividing it into two, as the U.S. justice department has proposed.

Oilpatch turnaround

Ranger Oil Ltd. of Calgary failed to obtain a court order blocking a hostile takeover bid from Petro-Canada Energy and Resources Ltd. of New York. City. Ranger had alleged that the principals of Petro-Canada violated insider trading rules when they accumulated a five-per-cent stake in Ranger earlier this year. Ranger's board, which put the company up for sale as April avoid shareholder discontent, opposed the leveraged bid from Petro-Canada, which is about a 10% Ranger stake.

Ford buys Land Rover

Ford Motor Co. confirmed it will buy British-based Land Rover from French-based Michelin World Auto (MWA) for \$4.2 billion. The acquisition is the latest addition to Ford's luxury-car lineup, which includes Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and Lincoln.

Rail alliance

Canadian Pacific Railway Co. squared up with three large U.S. railroads to invest in Amtrak Inc., which co-ordinates transportation services over the Interstates. CP Rail and its new partners have lobbied against the proposed 18.7-billion merger of Canadian National Railway Co. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. of Fort Worth, Tex.

Brains: small drain, big gain

Statistics Canada

confirmed that Canada is losing large numbers of highly qualified professionals to the United States. But the federal agency also reported that the brain drain is more than matched by an influx of highly qualified immigrants from other countries. The report estimates that the flow to the United States averaged up to 12,600 in 1991 and as high as 23,000 in 1997. It also found, however, that for every person with a degree that Canada loses to the United States, Canada gains four from elsewhere, including at least one with postgraduate qualifications.



Move to Ontario results

Members of the health professions and the business community have long warned that Canada is losing as best made because of uncongenial salaries, high taxes and especially inadequate investment in research and advanced facilities. It can be problematic to rely on immigrants to fill the gaps, they say, since many lack the North American credentials necessary to practice their profession in Canada. The StatsCan study confirmed the medical erosion. The annual outflow of doctors and nurses to the United States is equivalent to about a quarter of the number who graduate each year.

A huge airline gets even larger

Chicago-based United Airlines Inc., the world's largest carrier, is taking over US Airways Group Inc. of Arlington, Va. The \$15-billion deal will create a giant airline with 115,000 employees and 900 aircraft. By comparison, the planned merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. has boosted Air Canada's fleet to 370 and employees to 60,000. If the U.S. deal passes regulatory hurdles, Air Canada customers will likely gain better access to American destinations. The airline already has an extensive code-sharing pact with United.

Financial Outlook

The price Canadian manufacturers pay for key raw materials fell six per cent in April, a welcome respite amid generally rising prices. Falling costs for

crude oil was the main factor, taking the material fuel surcharges down by 15.5 per cent. But even with April downers, the raw materials price index is still up nearly 20 per cent on a year-over-year basis, again largely because of crude oil prices. They are still nearly 50 per cent higher than they were last April.

Derek Borchorst, senior economist at TD Economics, believes the big jumps in raw materials prices are over and that Canada can expect to see those price rises for more gradually for the rest of the year—good news for the export-driven economy.

THE RAW DEAL

Weekly change in the raw materials price index and selected index categories



A woman of distinction

Sandra Gwyn brought more than a trace of dark wit to mainstream journalism

By John Fraser

When Sandra Gwyn, the award-winning journalist and author, died on Friday, it was remembered by one of her wife friends that she had staged her final departure much as she had managed her life: with style, courage and more than a trace of the dark wit she brought to mainstream Canadian journalism from her beloved Newfoundland. Although Gwyn, who first built a significant national readership in a series of penetrating profiles and cultural studies for *Saturday Night* magazine in the mid-70s, was only 65 when she died, she had been fighting cancer for several years. A remission in her final year helped her show everyone who came within her orbit that the imminent draw of death was an incentive to live life full-on. To the end, she defied the predictions of doctors with the same gaiety spirit that once saw her berate Conrad Black in public.

She was born in St. John's, in 1935, the daughter of an idealistic young colonial civil servant, Claude Fraser, and his wife, Ruth. Sheen of an dominant status due to an implausible combination of political connections and Depression economics, Newfoundland had never been worse off. These circumstances, along with Gwyn's fiery desire for conventional Canadian cultural proprieties, were crucial components in her fierce Newfoundland pride, which remained strong throughout her career.

No one bright or nimble heart from that province was allowed to develop their talents unhampered by her sharp, decisive eye. Whether it was the paintings of Mary and Christopher Pratt, the wicked black humour of Cootie, or



Gwyn, a fiery dioxide for conventional Canadian cultural proprieties

the books of Kevin Major and Patrick Kavanagh, Gwyn provided her native turf, searching out talents and making sure the rest of Canada took it seriously. Her essay in *Maclean's* 1997 cover package on Newfoundland was a typically lyrical account of her beloved island.

Cladson presented her with the Order of Canada—an honour that Gwyn, the acerbic chronicler, undoubtedly relished. Although she was published widely in Canada and internationally, she had a particularly close writer-editor relationship with Robert Fellowes in *Saturday Night*. When Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. purchased the magazine in 1987, precipitating Fellowes's departure, Gwyn was outraged. Spotting the meeklyazon emerging from the Royal Opera House in London, she gave him a ferocious piece of her mind.

The other creative force in her life was her marriage to Richard Gwyn, the columnist and political biographer. Married for 42 years, the Gwyns fortified each other emotionally as well as professionally. The books they dedicated to each other till the tile, as did the countless gatherings at their home where writers, artists and politicians mingled with gardeners and bakers. Sandra Gwyn accomplished much in her life. Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was that she gave journalism a good name. ■



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Farewell to the Rocket

For so many who saw him perform his magic on the ice, Maurice Richard was the soul of hockey

By James Deacon

In the dressing room after practice for an all-stars game at the 1990 all-star weekend, a bunch of guys who used to trade high sticks were instead trading stories about the Rocket. Every player from that power era in the National Hockey League had a rapper for the last guy's tale. Red Kelly, Stan Mikita and old elbows himself, Gordie Howe, all remembered bruising encounters with Maurice Richard. Someone joked that he used to be able to show the stars he got from Richard, but now they just looked like wrinkled fins. Thus got a laugh.

They were talking about the Rocket because of a rare honour about to be bestowed this all-star weekend in Tampa, Fla.: For the first time, the NHL was naming a post-season award after one of its players, instead of after a former team owner or league commissioner. In the company of current and former greats, Richard stood at centre as while commissioner Gary Bettman unfurled the Maurice Richard Trophy for the player who each season scores the most goals. Even fans in the Sentinel seemed to understand the history that was being made, and gave Richard a

wavering ovation. But the more telling accolade came from his peers, half-of-fame all, who nevertheless marveled: Richard was singularly deserving of so much as honour. "There might have been better players," Kelly said back then in Florida, "but no one was more exciting."

Great athletes are frequently remembered for records and trophies, and Maurice Richard, who died last week at age 78 after a three-year battle with abdominal cancer, had his share of statistics and achievements. But the Rocket will forever be known for his heart. A native Montrealer, he was the leader of the home-town Canadiens, and to so many who saw him play, the soul of the game. He performed with a fiery passion that excited fans, and he had an explosive temper that electrified fans. He stood up to all comers, even the league's president, Clarence Campbell, who many felt mistreated the francophone star. By taking on the establishment, Richard became the champion of the Canadian fans and of all Quebecers. But to the greatest goal-scoring of his era, he was admired throughout the hockey world. And so, when he died on May 27 at Montreal's Hotel Dieu hospital with his family by his side, all of Canada grieved.

Richard grew up in the Boucherville district of north-central Montreal. He learned the game in his backyard, playing with his brothers and his father, a rambunctious carpenter-orchestrator. He became a top junior player for his neighbour-



Clockwise from top:
Richard scoring on
Boston's Gord Henry
in 1948; at a
wedding with coach
The Blaik and goalie
Jacques Plante; being
congratulated against
Toronto in 1954; a
fiery passion that
excited fans, and an
explosive temper that
electrified fans



By taking on the NHL, the Rocket became Quebec's champion

hood team, the Paroisse— one season, he scored 135 of the team's 145 goals. Though a robust five feet, 10 inches and 180 lbs., he missed much of his final junior season because of injuries, and was deemed unfit in attempts to sign up for war service the day. For the same reason, doubters suggested Richard was too brash for professional hockey, but he soon proved them wrong. In 1945-1946, his first full NHL season, he scored a career-high 32 goals and led the Canadiens to a Stanley Cup victory— their first since 1931. The next season, he scored an unheard-of 50 goals in 50 games, a record that only Wayne Gretzky has ever bettered. In 1945-1946, the Habs won another Cup—the second of eight with Richard.

To slow down the Rocket, opposing teams would send out their toughest players to draw him off the game. At a result, the hot-headed Richard was frequently provoked into fighting, and was often the one who was fined or suspended. He brooked it when he viewed as the referee's failure to penalize the hooligans and slingers who harassed him, and apparently in the Quebec media, there was a conspiracy against their star. André Raffignant wrote in Montreal's *Fourier* column that the NHL's English-speaking leaders were trying to "kill the spirit of a French-Canadian as king of the game." After Richard called Campbell a "thief" in a weekly newspaper column in *Savoir Ensemble*, the league forced the star to retract his remark and cease writing the column. Richard's biographer, Jean-Marie Pelletier, later wrote that all Quebecers felt the Rocket's handiwork. "Once more," Pelletier wrote, "the English boot had sent us running."

Then on March 13, 1955, with 10 minutes left in a game against Boston, the Bruins' Hal Laycoe high-locked Richard, opening a bloody gash on his



With ex-teammate from *Between the Pivots* closing ceremonies

forehead. David, Richard remained with his fans and with his stick, and then knocked down the linesman who tried to restrain him. Three days later, Campbell suspended Richard for the remainder of the season and the playoffs, effectively ending Montreal's Cup aspirations. At a game the next night, Campbell was assaulted by fans, the game was suspended and forfeited to Detroit, and departing spectators joined a mob outside the Forum to verbally hound down St. Catherine Street. The next day, Richard himself appealed for calm and the situation was defused.



At the Canadiens' last game at Maple Leaf Gardens, all of Canada gathered

In retirement, Richard stayed involved in hockey. He had a falling out with the Canadiens in the late 1960s, but returned in 1980 to serve as an ambassador for the team—most memorably at the Forum's closing ceremonies in 1996. *Hockey Night in Canada* analyst Dick Irvin wistfully mused the then-80-year-old Richard received that night, even when most of the people had never seen him play. "He hadn't scored a goal or played a game there in 30 years," Irvin told *Maclean's*. "And people were crying, for God's sake. What other athlete, any place, any time, would get that kind of ovation from that kind of an audience?" It showed what he meant to Quebec and to Montreal. And it wasn't just francophiles—he was a hero to anglophones, too.

When diabetes first discovered his cancer, Richard's future looked bleak. The tumor was inoperable, they said, and unlikely to respond to therapy. At the same time, he was also suffering from Parkinson's disease and degenerative arthritis in his lower spine. But according to Dr. André Robitaille, chief of surgery at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Richard defied a horrible prognosis. For two years, his cancer was in remission, and he was able to resume his public appearances for the team. "Mr. Richard," the surgeon understated, "this shows that he has an incredible strength." He continued to show it—right until the end.

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Beauchamp (left),
Perré and Langlois:
a taste of celebdom

Films Cannes

Beauty at the Feast

By Brian D. Johnson in Cannes

Fifteen minutes. That's about how long it took to walk from the champagne reception at the Majestic Hotel to the top of the red carpet, even though the hotel was right across the street. French beauty led the way in the case of *Stardom*, which marched past the limestone arches, the thousands of fans thronged behind steel barricades. Cheers went up as they recognized semi-famous faces—Claude Berling, Franck Langella, Théodore Bikel, Robert Lepage, Camille Rutherford. Some even pulled out the elusive Québec Deep Award. But at the closing-night premiere at the 53rd Cannes Film Festival (May 10 to 21), most eyes were on the young beauty in the black organza gown who had enough diamonds around her neck that they glowed with a bodyguard. Even if no one had heard of Jessica Paré, everyone could see she was a star.

The presscon was stalled at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the Palais des Festivals (protocol requires the stars to save their entrance to the end). “Like presents, we’re early,” mused Armand, as he and his entourage cooled their heels. Finally given the signal, they made their way up the carpet. The legions of photographers lining the steps were easy for Paré.

“Jesus! Jesus! Over here!” they shouted, as she worked to oblige a hundred lenses with individual eye contact. “It was a trap and a half,” the 19-year-old Montreal ingénue said at a dinner after the premiere. “It was really weird, all these people screaming your name. I was in the movie.”

In fact, the world that Paré’s character inhabits in *Stardom* has uncanny parallels to the one she fell into on the French Riviera.

Stardom may have created a star while sending up the whole idea

Armand’s black comedy charts the rise and fall of a young innocent named Tina Marsh, who is plucked from the obscurity of a girls’ hockey team in Cannwell, Ont., to become a supermodel. In Cannes, that is more or less what happened to Paré, an unknown actress barely out of high school who was thrown into a media vortex. Like a kid on a carnival ride, she appeared to be enjoying her time, at least for a while. To

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quote her character: "It was all fun, until it was not fun." Because the festival's closing-night gala serves as a *dress rehearsal* for the awards ceremony, Paul's moment in the spotlight was partially eclipsed by the ones preceding or winning prizes—stargazing from the royal Catherine Deene to the oversexed Björk, the Icelandic singer named best actress for *La Vie En Rose*. Paul's *Dr. Strangelove, Doctor in the Dark* And with some of the audience leaving the theater to celebrate after the awards, the house was less than packed for the premiere of *Swingers*, which was not in competition. "I was among those sitting at about 20 empty seats in front of me," lamented Paul. The movie, meanwhile, left critics underwhelmed. Costing \$1.2 million, and woven from 150 speaking parts, this acrobatic comedy of media misnomer may be Arcand's most ambitious work. But it feels less substantial than his previous Cannes triumphs, *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986) and *Joan of Arc* (1990), and lacks the dramatic buildup that kept the comedy in both those movies at an even keel. Filmed in English, *Swingers* unfolds as a barrage of sketches, and the central concern—that the whole movie is shot through the eyes of the media—often seems forced.

But there are compensations. Arcand's scope is peppered with witty asides, many delivered by Gibson (*Die Hard* and *Gringi*, who creates a chilling portrayal of a Hollywood agent). There is pinheadship at Park malaccales, And Swingers, which begins with an end card with snow, has extra resonance for Canadians, with playful scenes at Galtier Khan, MacIntosh, Cypress peeingpong and Frosty Page Challenge. Also, as a satire of celebrity—coming from a country without a star system, it may well have created a star while sending up the whole idea the Cannes adores. Paul.

Arcand discovered her last year just three weeks before shooting was set to begin, and he had to lay out a contract with another actress already signed to play the role, a 26-year-old Canadian. "A gorgeous girl who can act is a gold mine," said Arcand, in one of a string of interviews on a night party in Cannes. "And these aren't that many gold mines in the world. I use handbags of girls but they were never what I was looking for." At the suggestion of *Swingers* co-producer Robert Laroche, Arcand had even auditioned Larissa, girlfriend, who was with the producer in Cannes—Sonia Lyra, a former dancer with the Jeffrey Balke and herself a budding movie producer based in New York City. "It was quite awkward," says Arcand. "We did a long audition. But she really wanted right for the part."

Paul was discovered when she showed up to read for a small role, at a WIF (Women in Film) party on an A-list: reinforcements, her acting experience had been confined to high-school productions—she had played Jesus in *Gospelf* and Maid Marian in *Robin Hood*. Growing up bilingual with three brothers in the Montreal suburbs of Notre Dame de Grace, Paul is the daughter of Anthony Paul, head of the education department at McGill University, and Louise Marais, a conference translator. She once used to become a model herself but the agency informed her she was "too fat." Once Arcand had cast her, she was put on a no-eat diet, taught to shave and, like her character, was groomed for stardom.

The director says his idea for the film evolved from wondering "where does the power of beauty come from? I always found myself completely defenseless in front of a beautiful woman. So I start looking this idea around and eventually this person becomes a model. Then I realized that these models have become famous because of television." Arcand's ruminations about the power of beauty carried over to a movie about the power of the media that he insists is not a satire: "I'm just reflecting what you live experienced. I'm not exaggerating."

The problem with surpassing celebrity is that the mentality of the mid-thang tends to outstrip the purity. And nowhere is that more evident than in Cannes, where Arcand kept winding up in situations as absurd as those in the movie. Sunday's largest celebrity fund-raising event for various charities and the glitzier event in Cannes was the benefit for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), where guests paid \$2,500 each to attend a Victoria's Secret fashion show and a dinner hosted by Elizabeth Taylor and Elton John.

As the cocktail reception began, the black-tie crowd milled around exhibits at a silent auction. Up for grabs were posse, foam and getaways—a week on a private island in the Mediterranean once owned by Rudolf Nureyev, worth \$120,000. A somewhat disheveled Sean Penn made an entrance with Marianne Faithful. Harvey Weinstein, And, walking with a cane, 84-year-old icon Gregory Peck—the subject of a recent documentary by Barbara Kopple—struck up an unconvincing-looking conversation with director John Warren,



who had just prettified *Civil II* DeMent, a trashy satire about serialists who kidnap a faded Hollywood star.

Meanwhile, Arcand, with his producer and partner Denise Robert by his side, revisited setting some of the amfAR supermodels' asked buckney at a New York fashion show five years ago while searching for *Swingers*. "It was the night of the Quebec referendum," he said. "I was with Jeanne Beker and these Canadian who wanted no less to get the results. And I was saying, 'C'mon, we're seeing Claudia Schiffer naked!'"

The models parading near-naked at the amfAR event included Tyra Banks, Lorraine Costa, Stephanie Seymour—and Heidi Klum, who donated a massage that Weinstein later auctioned off for \$31,000. The lingerie spectacle was like a combination of episode strip show, rock concert and alien landing. Asked what he made of it all as he watched from his front-row seat, Peck gruffly replied, "Well, you look at their bunsches. But there's not much meat on the bones." Afterwards, critic Roger Ebert took snapshots of Liz Taylor and chatted up



who's Fornight. But that paid role of three generations of women traveling to the Gaspé—call it *The Heart of Lingerie*—generated no buzz. And Arcand's movie suffered from being stuck at the end of the festival, and from the fact that the cast's biggest name, Dan Aykroyd, did not show. At Weinstein's news conference, the filmakers and cast on the podium were in danger of outshining the journalists in attendance. Laroche—who has produced or co-produced every English-Canadian film officially selected by Cannes for the past three decades—could not help observing that the media's response to *Swingers* was "pretty tame," especially compared with the outrage that greeted Cimino's *Crash* in Cannes four years earlier.

It is late. After the pressie and the dinner, a weary Paul slowly walks down the Croisette, his borrowed Escada dress trailing along the pavement. Along with some of the *Swingers* crew, she is headed for a small Marais party at a restaurant on the beach. There, with a Madonna song pumping across the dance floor, a few reflexes are squaring the last days of excitement from the festival. Paul does not stay long. Estimated,

Best actress: Leanna Gibson
(far left, Butterfield,
Langevin, Paul, Arcand,
Lepage; Taylor (below);
above) this is a small victory



The lingerie spectacle was like a combination of strip show, rock concert and alien landing

Weinstein, who revealed that Mick Jagger was to have been the surprise guest until his mother passed away.

Despite all the glamour being flaunted in Cannes, the festival's raison d'être, the film competition, remains far removed from Hollywood. Two Israeli films took the Camera D'Or, the prize for best film feature. Another Israeli entry, *Black Jesus*, shared the jury's third prize with a surreal *Swingin' Gym*—her solo shaking, Oscar Mankishuk, 20, bravely used her acceptance speech to call for democracy in Israel. The jury's second prize went to *Death as the Dessert*, Jiang Wen's comic refection about a baffled Chinese peasant holding Japanese prisoners war. Tony Leung was named best actor for *In the Mood for Love*, a tale of reluctantly unrequited romance by Hong Kong's Wong Kar Wai. And Björk's triumph with *Doctor in the Dark* confirmed a trend, at last year by David Cronenberg's jury, of awarding prizes to noveir actors. But this year's jury, unlike Cronenberg's, avoided controversy with choices that reflected a popular conservatism.

Without a film in competition, Canada, meanwhile, had a low profile. Quebec's Gaspé District prettified a first feature, *Le Finistère des îles Mingan*, in the alternative *Direct*

the soon heads back to the Croisette Hotel.

One of her co-star, Quebec dramatist Robert Lepage, is at a table on the dance floor, now looking at the beach, and wonders what he is doing there. "I don't usually go to these things," he says. "You pick up someone. You dance. It's all very shallow." I point out that Björk is sitting at a table on the sand just a few feet away, unassuming in her dress of confection stars. "Ah, Björk," says Lepage. "I love Björk. She would change my religion for her"—i.e. the most women who could persuade him to consider heterosexuality. So why doesn't he go over and to introduce himself? Maybe she's trying to meet her. "Maybe not," he says. "Besides, that's not something I do."

Lepage then launches into a dissertation on Iceland, explaining how Björk is the country personified, "on top, volcano underneath," and how the island is blessed from volcanic sources, and there are thermal gushers with holes in the ground where carrots are cooked by the time they're picked. Then he glances over to the spot on the sand where Björk was sitting, but she has vanished into the night. ■

Liz and Hugh say cheerio

British glam couple Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley have decided to call it quits. Grant, an actor, and Hurley, a leggy model-actress, have been together for 15 rolly years, low-lighted by Grant's 1995 arrest for soliciting sex from a Los Angeles prostitute. The couple split, friends say, over a difference of opinion over whether to start a family. Last year, Hurley—who became a household name after she wore a busty-chore dress kept together with safety pins to the premiere of Grant's 1996 film, *Fever Pitch*—and *A Funeral*—was said to have consulted with an adoption agency. But it seems that Grant, who has made a career of playing consummately phobic characters, is less than enthused with the idea of real falsehood. Life imitates art again.



Grant, Hurley (right), she does give over family issues kept together with safety pins to the premiere of Grant's 1996 film, *Fever Pitch*—and *A Funeral*—was said to have consulted with an adoption agency. But it seems that Grant, who has made a career of playing consummately phobic characters, is less than enthused with the idea of real falsehood. Life imitates art again.

Theatre

The Age of Aquarius is back, baby. From July 11 to 29, *After '72*, an updated version of the 1968 play that celebrated happen and flower children, will have its world premiere—at Theatre Cambrian in Sudbury, Ont. How did an amateur community theatre in Northern Ontario get the opportunity to perform the play first? "I fixed one of the original writers," says a master-of-fest, Mark Manente, 23, president of the theatre group. The company had already decided to perform *Hair* (fully clothed), but wanted

to replace some of the old songs with current tunes. So Manente contacted play co-writer James Riado, who said they couldn't change the music. "But then we ended up talking about Cambrian and Sudbury," says Manente, and Riado suddenly offered the troupe the chance to perform his just-finished update of *Hair*, which will make its Broadway debut in 2003. "He said we sounded like 'good guys,'" says Manente, smiling. And how is the cast taking the news? "They are ecstatic," he says. "For most of them this is their first time acting." Break a leg.



Art

The 500 people attending Sotheby's Canadian art auction in Toronto broke into applause when Lawren Harris's landscape, *Lake, North Woods*, was sold to an unidentified phone bidder for \$385,000. The price for the 1930 Group of Seven painting was well over the previous estimate of \$325,000 to \$400,000.

Cruise's wild ride

M-1-2

Directed by John Woo

So what if Tom Cruise's man goes through the chase scenes as if he's an dancing-for-a-champion commercial? Or that he feels compelled to do a triple Lotti every time he wants to hit somebody. Or that the knife dash across his cheek looks like it was designed by Versace. She. Aint. Me—*rip* and. Cruise, the macho hero with the amazingly batlike chomp, is the new Action Man. And *M-1-2* rocks.

This is one case where the sequel improves on the original. After Brian De Palma's cold, machine-like *Mission: Impossible*, which could have been called *Mission: Incomprehensible*, Hong Kong-raised director John Woo (*Face/Off*) has designed *M-1-2* as a good-humoured sprawl with state-of-the-art stunt work. Robert Towne, the Boddler of screenwriters, is back, but this time he goes out of his way to explain what is going on. The plot, for what it's worth, involves a round-trip store villain (Dougray Scott) who plans to unleash a deadly virus on the world, and make a fortune by owning the antidote. An operatic Ethan Hawke, Cruise chases bad guys while seducing, and recruiting, a jewel thief played by Thandie Newton—who soon melts from femme fatale to damsel in distress.

But in *M-1-2* action speaks louder than script. And despite the total overkill in a genre ruled by cliché, Woo displays discerning originality—note the jousting duel on motorbikes. The director choreographs mayhem as brilliant fodder, and in Cruise he has an absolute star. From the opening scene of him hanging off a cliff to the long-fu finale, the actor does many of his own stunts. And as *M-1-2*'s missionary man, he could have a franchise as durable as James Bond—or Austin Powers.

Brian D. Johnson



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Compiled by Scott Johnson

Gentleman biker

In 1932, a wealthy young American decided to return home from London to New York City—by the scenic route. Robert Eddison Fulton Jr., 23, the son of the head of the Mack Truck Co., got on a Douglas Motorcycle and headed east. *The Long Journey Home* (August) is a collection of photos Fulton took during his 65,000-kilometer trip through 35 countries in the Pacific. (From Japan he sailed to San Francisco before continuing by motorcycle to New York, arriving on Christmas Eve, 1933.) After the well-built Fulton ditched his formal evening clothes in Ashura, he travelled with little more than a roadbook, his camera—and an eye for striking images from Turkey to China. Now 91, Fulton remains active as a photographer, recurring his first solo show in April.

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Allan Fotheringham

Conrad Black's designs

It is a typical Bay Street scene, of course. The Douglas Exchange, one of the old Toronto Stock Exchange. Police cars. Gaps galore. Grappling, snarling photograph in, apparently auditioning for the *World Warling Federation*. Much shouting and throat. Which the big deal? One of the world's dullest creatures, a company's annual shareholders' meeting, which suddenly is like watching *star* day.

But this is show business with comment. Mr Hollinger has that means. Conrad Black and Barbara Amiel, exorded by a bulldog who weighs 300 lbs, before breakfast, having to run the gauntlet of *Calgary Herald* readers on the sidewalk. Shareholder meetings are somewhere between killing you and saving the drama. No one wants to be there, but it's a duty.

That is Hollinger's annual contribution to vanities. This is Conrad, who quite easily could take over the sole filled by Sir John Gutfeld, and perhaps has missed his true calling. David, dull layers give up to "business" 16 directors who naturally are opposed by nothing but silence. Acquaintances who look like acrobats get up and recommend the books he penned.

But all wait for Conrad. It is watchable. He and his wife, a magnificence in a mingled-yellow suit above magenta gams and spike heels, saunter towards their seats, the French TV camerasmen lurching at their heels. It is an antique world of Caesar and Cleopatra. The caption, amidst the pinches, is retouching.

Conrad is at his most dull. "The program states I am invited to preside in order, though I find the whole concept not be offensive." He allows no more than 150 questions that "I have a few minutes to inflict on you."

Things are going swell, the essential message—but *Daily Telegraph* in London is at cause preferable point in history, losses in *Financial Post* "declining steeply" with a pledge to be bussing out by the fourth quarter.

Most interesting, though Conrad's verbal sense of humour, is the display he displays in the back end of the 94-page annual report. He is celebrated, of course, for his collection of tiny soldiers which he can—cause every one of Napoleon's major battles. His report is a collection of prominent names of the universe—dameans and abums of his various subsections. Hollinger International, Hollinger Canadian inc., he seems to have counted up everyone but the Pope.



There is Sir Evelyn de Rothschild. The Right Hon the Viscount Cobham, former leader of the opposition of the House of Lords (Julia them, PMQ). Dr Giovanni Agnelli, head of Fiat. William F Buckley Jr. The Hon. Neil Grahame. Paul Volcker, former head of the Federal Reserve Bank. You want names? The Lord King of Wensley Bob Semple, the No. 1 lobbyist in Washington George F. Will. Marie-Josée Kravis, cousin squeeze of Wall Street financier Henry Kravis. The Lord Windlesford of Chelsea, former good friend of Mrs. Black.

His "senior international advisers"? The Right Hon the Baroness Thatcher. Former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Henry Kissinger. The Hon. Zbigniew Brzezinski of Washington, *etc.*

Conrad can be forgiven all this hubub because of his *way*. Anyone who can make a shareholders' meeting fan can be forgiven almost anything. When a 16-year veteran of the *Herald* rose to give a lengthy and civil dissertation, Conrad asked her to step back a bit from her floor microphone, and added: "This is an accused entrepreneur, not a cultural one."

When he spared a dolorous face among questioners, he sighed. "Oh Bob, not to see you again. This is going to take some time I take it." When shareholder Bob, a regular fixture at these gatherings, went through 20 minutes of well-maintained complaints on three specific points, Conrad replied, "If you can reward me, I'm trying to recall your first point."

One of the world's many talents in life was, while working in Washington, taking up the Smithsonian Institution's side for a free part lecture series so that Washington looks to no consider I would deliver the first lecture, then introduce four other speakers of top choice.

Conrad, then just making his career in London, was completely unknown in Washington circles and I asked if he would be stunned, knowing he is the only person in the world with a larger bulldog than Buckley Jr. (now on his payroll.)

He said he would be delighted, so he was told to kill him. The plus-minus a certain non-British American correspondent for the London *Observer* Alex, the Smithsonian in turnassumes caused the whooshing, during which he would be non-American. It is the last result I have made in my life.

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